FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-051
Monday
16 March 1992

Daily Report
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FBIS-EAS-92-051 *16 March 1992*

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Japan

Envoy: Tokyo, U.S. Fail To Adjust to Changes

OW1603082492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0809 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 (KYODO)—Japan's recently appointed ambassador to the United States on Monday blamed bilateral political and economic friction on both countries' slow adjustment to rapidly changing global situations.

"Both Tokyo and Washington have failed to coordinate their policies to comply with qualitative changes in the bilateral relationship," Takakazu Kuriyama said.

Addressing a luncheon meeting hosted by the Japan National Press Club, the ambassador said that after World War II Japan unilaterally depended on the U.S. for protection, enjoying peace and prosperity under the American umbrella.

Although the two countries rapidly became interdependent in the late 1980s, Kuriyama said, Japan-U.S. relations continued to be promoted on the basis of past inertia.

Despite interdependence in every economic sphere, the two countries lack common rules, he said.

But, Kuriyama said, Japan and the U.S. regard rules differently, with Americans strictly following rules, while Japanese prefer harmony to rules.

For its part, Washington has not yet found ways to secure a leading global role for itself in the face of its relatively declining state power and the world's heading for a multiple community.

The new envoy to Washington also said the U.S. faces a problem trying to work out a plan to recover its economic might by conquering its overconsumption and paltry personal savings rates.

On the Japanese side, Kuriyama said Japan has failed to break away from its past ways of thinking to catch up with advanced nations, even after becoming an economic power.

Kuriyama urged Japan to forge an immediate national consensus on what role it should assume to contribute to maintaining world peace.

He also said Japan and the U.S. must expand intellectual dialogue and grass-roots exchanges to promote mutual understanding.

Kuriyama will leave Tokyo next Monday for Washington to succeed Ryohei Murata, who was named ambassador to Germany.

Russian Foreign Minister on Nuclear Targets

OW1503045992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0418 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said that Japan, China, and other Asian countries are not targeted by Russian nuclear missiles, the major [newspaper] YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported Sunday.

In written answers to questions submitted by the newspaper, Kozyrev said Russian President Boris Yeltsin's pledge, that Russia would stop targeting the United States and Western Europe, also applies to Asian nations.

Kozyrev is scheduled to arrive in Japan on Thursday for a four-day visit, during which he will prepare for Yeltsin's planned visit to Japan in September.

"In the new historical situation, there is no confrontation either in ideology, military, or politics between Russia and the Western countries," he said.

The political circumstances have established the ground for friendly relations between Russia and the Western nations, and for the future establishment of an alliance through security and cooperation with Western nations, Kozyrev said.

Russia wants to occupy a suitable position among advanced Western nations, and since Russia is both a European and an Asian nation, it wants to also play a constructive and responsible political role in the Asia-Pacific region, he said.

Touching on bilateral relations, Kozyrev said, "The time is now ripe for creating Russo-Japanese relations based on joint action and partnership."

The Russian foreign minister said that when he visits Japan he will discuss concluding a peace treaty since it is indispensable for the two countries to come up with a mutually acceptable solution to a long-standing territorial dispute.

Japan has maintained that it will not conclude a peace treaty with Russia unless the country returns all four islands off Hokkaido that the Soviet Army siezed at the end of World War II.

But he said there is a need for preparatory work to create a favorable atmosphere between the two countries.

It is important to arouse Russian public opinion to make the Russian people understand that both sides are making efforts to reach a mutually acceptable settlement, he said.

"There are many Russian people who think negotiations (on the territorial issue) are unnecessary," he said.

Kozyrev praised recent Japanese politicians' proposals regarding the status of the island's Russian residents should the islands be returned, but he called such proposals premature.

Early Settlement of Dispute With Russia Sought

OW1403072592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0701 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe will urge his Russian counterpart to make an early decision to solve a territorial dispute between the two countries on the basis of law and justice, government officials said Saturday.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will visit Tokyo on March 20-21 for talks with Watanabe on bilateral and international problems, the officials said.

They said Watanabe has mapped out his basic approach toward the problems to be discussed during his meetings with Kozyrev, including the longstanding territorial dispute over four Russian-held islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

Kozyrev's trip also is aimed at preparing for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan in September.

Watanabe and Kozyrev will confirm that they will exchange visits before Yeltsin's trip to Japan, the officials said.

Watanabe is scheduled to visit Moscow in May for talks with Kozyrev, they said.

Watanabe and Kozyrev will also exchange views on the management of nuclear weapons by Russia and the situations in Korea, China, and Cambodia, the officials said.

Senior Foreign Ministry officials expressed pessimism about progress in negotiations on the territorial issue.

"No major headway is expected since President Yeltsin has yet to make a decision on the issue," one official said.

INTERFAX, an independent Russian news agency, quoted a Russian Foreign Ministry official as saying Friday the four disputed islands are part of Russian territory "at least for the time being."

Japan would like Russia to return the islands to Japanese rule to pave the way for the two countries to conclude a peace treaty, formally ending a technical state of war and normalize bilateral relations.

The government officials said Watanabe will also protest against Russia allowing South Korean fishing boats to operate in the 200-mile economic zone around the disputed islands.

Watanabe hopes to seal a formal agreement with Kozyrev to allow Japanese to visit the four islands without visas, starting in April or May, the officials said.

They said Watanabe will pledge to Kozyrev Japan will provide 30 tons of powdered milk to the Russian Far East through the Japan Red Cross Society as a second step in its humanitarian aid pledge worth 6.5 billion yen.

A Russian request for Japan's cooperation to establish a Russo-Japanese personnel interchange fund will also be discussed at the Watanabe-Kozyrev meetings, the officials said.

Nakasone Predicts Resolution

OW1403073592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0722 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin wants to settle a dispute with Japan over four northern islands within this decade, former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone says.

Nakasone, who recently returned from talks with Yeltsin in Moscow, said in an interview with KYODO News Service that he is certain the Yeltsin prediction will turn out to be true.

"(We) will settle it step by step," Nakasone said, quoting a top adviser to Yeltsin. Nakasone forecast that Russia will not return the four islands in one stroke.

The four islands are Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomais.

Nakasone said the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized countries should produce a new package of measures to assist the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) at its annual economic summit in Munich in July.

"Japan should not isolate itself and should actively help CIS," he said.

Nakasone, quoting "hotline information" that reached him from unnamed sources, said Yeltsin has made peace with Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, stabilizing his government.

"Whether he (Yeltsin) succeeds in his economic policy or not determines his fate," the former Japanese premier said.

On security in the Asia-Pacific region, Nakasone said, "the time has come to establish a 'political umbrella' in Asia" modeled after the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) as a confidence-building measure.

He suggested that the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum should be the basis for such an entity to help bring stability in the region.

Nakasone said Japanese politics today does not have the capability to deal effectively with rapidly changing international situations.

Humanitarian Aid Shipments to Russia To Resume

OW1603130592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1220 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—Japan will resume shipments of humanitarian aid to the Russian Far East starting March 20, Vice Foreign Minister Hasashi Owada said Monday.

Owada said Japan will ship by air and sea medicines, food, and powdered milk to various regions of the Russian Far East through the end of April.

The aid will come from Japan's pledge last January of 6.5 billion yen in emergency help for the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Tokyo, Moscow Agree on Fisheries Joint Venture

OW1503083192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0824 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 (KYODO)—Japanese and Russian fisheries negotiators have reached broad agreement on a fisheries joint venture in the north Pacific and a salmon catch quota for 1992, a Japanese source said Sunday.

The agreement, reached in negotiations held in Tokyo, calls for a salmon catch by Japanese boats of some 14,000 tons for this year's joint venture within the Russian 200-mile coastal economic zone.

The catch amount for the joint venture is 6,200 tons greater than last year as salmon fishing in open seas has now been banned.

The negotiators also agreed that Japan should pay 450 million yen in fisheries cooperation fees to the Russians for a catch of 2,800 tons of salmon in Japanese waters, according to the source. The fee is being paid as the salmon spawn in Russian rivers.

A formal agreement is expected to be signed as early as Monday, the source said.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Moldova

OW1603130692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1250 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 (KYODO)—Japan on Monday formally established diplomatic relations with Moldova, one of the 12 former Soviet republics, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Representatives of the two countries exchanged documents in Moscow on the establishment of diplomatic relations, the officials said.

On January 26, Japan opened ties with Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine. A similar step was taken with respect to Tajikistan on February 2.

Japan has recognized Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan. But formal ties are still pending. Japan has not yet recognized Georgia.

Moldova, sandwiched between Romania and Ukraine, consists mostly of territory carved out of Romania in a secret pact in 1940 between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany.

Most of the country's population speaks Romanian and a significant segment wants reunification with Bucharest. Russian and Turkish minorities, meanwhile, also want to break away from Moldova.

Officials Meet With Eastern European Economists

OW1303132892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1242 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO—Economists from five East European countries sought Japanese help in resolving their countries' economic hardships when they conferred with Japanese colleagues at a two-day meeting that ended Friday, Japanese officials said.

Economic policymakers from Hungary, Poland, and three other East European countries got together to exchange views on economic problems with officials at the Economic Planning Agency [EPA].

The East Europeans said at the meeting that their countries succeeded in keeping inflation under control after price liberalization, but still face continued declines in production activity and increased unemployment, agency officials said.

The East Europeans reportedly said their countries could not exactly follow Japan's post-World War II experience in fighting war-induced economic chaos. They do, however, intend to study closely Japan's close government-business relationships and lifetime employment system.

The meeting was the first of its kind between EPA officials and East European economists.

The EPA intends to hold similar meetings regularly because of the East Europeans' desire to confer often with the Japanese, the agency officials said.

Tokyo Concerned About Exodus of Burma's Muslims

OW1403023192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0150 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—Parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa expressed concern Friday night over Burma's alleged human rights violation believed to be sending tens of thousands of Muslims fleeing to neighboring Bangladesh, ministry officials said.

Kakizawa summoned U. Han Thein, Burma's ambassador to Japan, to express the Japanese concerns.

As many as 170,000 Burmese Muslims, known as Rohingyas, have crossed from Burma to Bangladesh since last December.

Kakizawa told the ambassador that human rights violations committed by the Burmese Army may be causing Muslim refugees to make the massive exodus.

The Burmese ambassador denied Kakizawa's accusation, saying the Muslim refugees are not Burmese and that they voluntarily crossed into Bangladesh.

The ambassador said foreign news media coverage of the case has been one-sided.

Kakizawa also called for Burma to release opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

The ambassador replied that he would convey Japan's request to Burma's Government in Rangoon.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been under house arrest since July 1989.

Concern Reiterated 16 Mar

OW1603133692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1227 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—Japan reiterated Monday its concern to Myanmar [Burma] over the influx of tens of thousands of Muslim refugees across that country's border into Bangladesh, a top Foreign Ministry official said.

The Foreign Ministry summoned Myanmar's Ambassador to Japan U Mya Thein to convey the Japanese concern.

Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada said the ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau director general, Sakutaro Tanino, told the envoy that Japan is concerned about the problem and wants to see it resolved quickly and tangibly.

The Myanmar ambassador was quoted as replying that his country is merely dealing with illegal immigrants according to its laws.

The envoy was also summoned to the ministry last Friday by Parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa, who suggested human rights violations may be behind the exodus of Muslims, known as Rohingyas, from Myanmar's western province of Arakan.

On March 5, the Japanese Embassy in Yangon [Rangoon] had similar discussions with Myanmar's Foreign Ministry.

Owada said the Japanese diplomats intend to hold more discussions soon.

Peru's Fujimori Arrives in Tokyo on State Visit

OW1503080392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0742 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 (KYODO)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori arrived Sunday in Tokyo for a week-long state visit, his first since since he took office in July 1990.

During his stay in Tokyo, Fujimori is to hold talks with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, meet Japanese business leaders, give a speech before the Diet, and have an audience with Emperor Akihito.

During the summit session Tuesday, Miyazawa is expected to offer large-scale economic assistance to Peru, which is economically struggling and heavily indebted.

Fujimori, son of Japanese emigrants to Peru, last visited Japan in April 1991 to attend a meeting in Nagoya of the Inter-American Development Bank.

On Wednesday and Thursday, Fujimori is to visit Osaka and Nagoya, the second and third largest business centers in Japan.

He is to fly to Kumamoto Prefecture on the southern main island of Kyushu on Friday to visit what he has called his "second home," the small town of Kawachi, where his parents came from.

Urges More Investment in Peru

OW1603084092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0750 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 (KYODO)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori on Monday called on Japanese business leaders to increase investment in Peru to help promote economic relations between the two countries.

Speaking to about 200 Japanese business leaders at a luncheon hosted by five major economic organizations, Fujimori said Peru is a potential country where Japan will be able to invest more and get economic benefits from the Latin American country.

"Peru is a world-famous producer of copper, silver and gold," said Fujimori, adding that undeveloped areas along the Amazon River are waiting for investment from foreign countries.

Fujimori, son of a Japanese immigrant, said Peru will provide the same rights and duties for both domestic and foreign investors.

The Peruvian president dispelled a concern from Japanese business circles about political instability in Peru, saying, "Violence is not a stumbling block preventing Japanese businessmen from investing in the country."

Fujimori said violence has been receding in Peru as the Peruvian Government, people and security forces have fought against terrorism to achieve peace in the country by 1995.

Shinning Path and other leftist guerrillas have claimed more than 23,000 lives, most of them civilians, since 1980.

Among those killed were three Japanese technical experts who were murdered at a rural area in Peru last July.

Fujimori said Peru is making every effort to trim a swelling bureaucratic system to make it more effective, which he said is the first priority to modernize the economy.

Fujimori arrived in Tokyo on Sunday on a week-long state visit to Japan.

Says Tokyo Reconstruction Model

OW1603132692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1240 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 (KYODO)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori said Monday Japan can be a model for the reconstruction of Peru, which is economically struggling and heavily in debt.

Speaking at a state banquet hosted by Emperor Akihito at the Imperial Palace, Fujimori, who is making his first official visit to his ancestral homeland, said Peru and Japan share the same "culture of labor."

He said the reconstruction of Japan in the aftermath of World War II is a model for the Peruvian people who are now seeking the reconstruction of their own country.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa was among about 140 guests at the court banquet.

The emperor expressed respect and admiration for the "unremitting efforts" that Fujimori has made toward Peru's development and the construction of a stable society since taking office in July 1990.

"It is extremely reassuring for us to know that people who have emigrated from Japan to various countries and their descendents are becoming important members of their communities and are making worthy contributions both to the further development of their respective nations and to their well-being," the emperor said.

The emperor also said he hopes Fujimori's visit will result in greater mutual understanding and trust between the peoples of the two countries and lead to further development in bilateral relations.

Fujimori, who arrived in Tokyo on Sunday for a week-long state visit, attended a welcoming ceremony at Akasaka Palace, spoke at a luncheon given in his honor by business leaders, and met the powerful vice president of Japan's governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Shin Kanemaru.

At the welcoming ceremony, the emperor greeted Fujimori and inquired about the health of his wife, who had to cancel her trip due to illness. Fujimori said she is getting better.

After the ceremony, the emperor and Fujimori proceeded to the Imperial Palace for an informal talk, at which Empress Michiko was also present.

In the meeting with Kanemaru, Fujimori, the son of Japanese emigrants to Peru from Kumamoto Prefecture, called for Japanese support for his efforts to reconstruct the Peruvian economy.

Kanemaru pledged cooperation, LDP officials said.

In a speech to about 200 Japanese business leaders at the luncheon hosted by five major economic organizations, Fujimori called on Japanese business leaders to increase investment in Peru to help promote economic relations between the two countries.

Fujimori said Peru is a country in which Japan could continue to invest more and reap the potential economic benefits.

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Fujimori said Peru is making every effort to trim its swelling bureaucracy to make it more effective, which he said is the first priority in modernizing the economy.

The Peruvian president is scheduled to address the Diet and hold summit talks with Prime Minister Miyazawa on Tuesday.

DA To Establish PKO Preparation Task Force

OW1603103092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1016 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 (KYODO)—The Defense Agency [DA] will establish a task force soon to study possible participation by Japanese troops in U.N. peacekeeping operations [PKO], agency officials said Monday.

Shinning Path and other leftist guerrillas have claimed more than 23,000 lives, most of them civilians, since 1980.

Among those killed were three Japanese technical experts who were murdered at a rural area in Peru last July.

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Says Tokyo Reconstruction Model

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He said the reconstruction of Japan in the aftermath of World War II is a model for the Peruvian people who are now seeking the reconstruction of their own country.

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The emperor expressed respect and admiration for the "unremitting efforts" that Fujimori has made toward Peru's development and the construction of a stable society since taking office in July 1990.

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Fujimori, who arrived in Tokyo on Sunday for a week-long state visit, attended a welcoming ceremony at Akasaka Palace, spoke at a luncheon given in his honor by business leaders, and met the powerful vice president of Japan's governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Shin Kanemaru.

At the welcoming ceremony, the emperor greeted Fujimori and inquired about the health of his wife, who had to cancel her trip due to illness. Fujimori said she is getting better.

After the ceremony, the emperor and Fujimori proceeded to the Imperial Palace for an informal talk, at which Empress Michiko was also present.

In the meeting with Kanemaru, Fujimori, the son of Japanese emigrants to Peru from Kumamoto Prefecture, called for Japanese support for his efforts to reconstruct the Peruvian economy.

Kanemaru pledged cooperation, LDP officials said.

In a speech to about 200 Japanese business leaders at the luncheon hosted by five major economic organizations, Fujimori called on Japanese business leaders to increase investment in Peru to help promote economic relations between the two countries.

Fujimori said Peru is a country in which Japan could continue to invest more and reap the potential economic benefits.

"Peru is a world-famous producer of copper, silver, and gold," said Fujimori, adding undeveloped areas along the Amazon River are waiting for investment from foreign countries.

Fujimori said Peru will provide the same rights and duties for both domestic and foreign investors.

The Peruvian president dispelled concerns from Japanese business circles about political instability in Peru, saying, "violence is not a stumbling block for Japanese businessmen wishing to invest in the country."

He said violence has been receding in Peru as the government, people, and security forces are countering terrorism and hope to achieve peace in the country by 1995.

Fujimori said Peru is making every effort to trim its swelling bureaucracy to make it more effective, which he said is the first priority in modernizing the economy.

The Peruvian president is scheduled to address the Diet and hold summit talks with Prime Minister Miyazawa on Tuesday.

DA To Establish PKO Preparation Task Force

OW1603103092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1016 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 (KYODO)—The Defense Agency [DA] will establish a task force soon to study possible participation by Japanese troops in U.N. peacekeeping operations [PKO], agency officials said Monday.

During Monday's Budget Committee hearings, Kubo also will seek the withdrawal of a bill to allow the dispatch of Japanese military personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Defense Budget, Political Scandals Discussed

OW1603140192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1338 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 (KYODO)—Defense Agency [DA] Chief Sohei Miyashita denied an opposition allegation Monday that the agency allocated part of the fiscal 1992 defense budget to procure a mine disposal system as a precondition of the presumed passage through the Diet of a bill to allow Self-Defense Forces troops to join U.N. peacekeeping forces in Cambodia.

Miyashita was replying to Social Democratic Party (SDP) member Wataru Kubo during the day's session of the House of Councillors Budget Committee, which began deliberations on the fiscal 1992 budget.

Late last week, the more powerful House of Representatives passed the budget bill and sent it to the second chamber.

The 72,218 billion yen budget for fiscal 1992 incorporates 4,551.8 billion yen for defense outlays. Japan's fiscal year starts April 1.

Kubo asked why the government allocated a total of 10.6 billion yen for eight P-3C antisubmarine patrol planes in the fiscal 1990 budget while appropriating 11.7 billion yen for one such a plane in the fiscal 1992 budget.

Senior Agency Equipment Administrator Osamu Seki replied that the cost of the materials for the planes has increased since 1990.

Kubo was dissatisfied with Seki's explanation and demanded the Agency submit to the Diet materials showing how the agency calculated the spending for planes allocated in the fiscal 1990 and 1992 budgets.

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Member Kichio Inoue asked the government the prospects for Russia to return for Russian-held islands of Hokkaido to Japan.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe replied that the government hopes to settle the territorial dispute when Russian President Boris Yeltsin visits Japan in September.

Watanabe said Japan regards Russia Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Japan later this week as a cornerstone to resolve the issue over the four islands—the Habomis, Shikotan, Etorofu, and Kunashiri. Soviet troops seized the islands at the end of World War II.

Regarding political scandals, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said he will carry out reforms as soon as possible, with the help of the Diet, to deal with the public distrust of politics, and that seriously tackling the issue and achieving real reform will lead to regaining the public trust.

The approval rating of the four-month-old Miyazawa cabinet has plunged to 27 percent from 45 percent in three months, according to an ASAHI SHIMBUN newspaper poll released last Wednesday.

Kubo said Fumio Abe, former director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, should be summoned to testify before the Diet.

Abe, formerly one of Miyazawa's top advisers, is under indictment on a charge of accepting 90 million yen in bribes from Kyowa Co., a now bankrupt steel frame maker.

Kubo also called for summoning Tsuneo Hattori, Miyazawa's former secretary, and Kiyoshi Sagawa, chairman of the Sagawa Kyubin Parcel Delivery Group, to testify on their alleged connections with the 1988-1989 recruit stocks-for-favor scandal and the Sagawa Kubin loan scandal.

Representatives of parties agreed to discuss Kubo's proposal at a closed door session.

The Sagawa Kubin loan scandal is reported to involve more than 100 politicians receiving large amounts of money from the firm, according to political sources.

The Recruit scandal involved over a dozen conservative and opposition politicians who purchased unlisted shares of the Recruit Cosmos Co. Real Estate Company at low prices and made profits through resale of the shares after the stock was opened to the public.

Among politicians named in that scandal were Miyazawa, Michio Watanabe, now foreign minister, then Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, and former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone. Most of them said their secretaries conducted the stock transactions.

Miyazawa, who resigned as deputy prime minister and finance minister in December 1988, said he has already explained his links to the scandal but that he would abide by a Diet decision to summon Hattori.

Miyazawa: Low Support Rate Due to Reform Delay

OW1603063692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0628 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday that the delay in carrying out political reform is the basic reason for the recent low level of public support for his cabinet.

Miyazawa made the remarks in response to Social Democratic Party (SDP) member Wataru Kubo's interpellation at the House of Councillors Budget Committee on a series of scandals involving politicians.

The prime minister said he will carry out reforms as soon as possible, with the help of the Diet, to deal with the public's distrust of politics, and that seriously tackling the issue and achieving real reform will lead to regaining the public's trust.

The approval rating of the four-month-old Miyazawa cabinet has plunged to 27 percent from 45 percent in three months, according to an ASAHI SHIMBUN poll released last Wednesday.

Miyazawa suggested that the ruling and opposition parties convene a Diet political reform council this week, and said he would like the current Diet session to begin legislating what they could agree on political reforms.

Kubo urged to summon Fumio Abe, former director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa development agencies, to testify before the Diet.

Abe, formerly one of Miyazawa's top advisers, is under indictment on a charge of accepting 90 million yen in bribes from Kyowa Co., a now-bankrupt steel frame maker.

Miyazawa denied the possibility that the money obtained by Abe from Kyowa had been used for Miyazawa's faction.

Kubo also called for summoning Tsuneo Hattori, Miyazawa's former secretary, to testify on his alleged connection with the 1988-1989 Recruit stocks-for-favor scandal.

The Recruit scandal involved over a dozen conservative and opposition politicians who purchased unlisted shares of Recruit Cosmos Co. real estate company at low prices and made profits through resale of the shares after the stock was opened to the public.

Among politicians named in that scandal were Miyazawa, Michio Watanabe, now foreign minister, then Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, and former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone. Most of them said their secretaries conducted the stock transactions.

Miyazawa, who resigned as deputy prime minister and finance minister in December 1988, said he has already explained his links to the scandal but that he would abide by a Diet decision to summon Hattori.

Kubo also demanded the calling to the Diet of Kiyoshi Sagawa, chairman of the Sagawa Kyubin parcel-delivery group which has allegedly channeled massive amounts of money to many politicians.

In answer to a question from Kubo on the proposed use of military aircraft for transporting Japanese nationals overseas in emergencies, Miyazawa said such a use would be proper.

On Tuesday last week, the government approved a proposed amendment to the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) Law that would allow SDF aircraft to make overseas flights for the rescue of Japanese nationals in emergencies, including natural disasters or conflicts.

The bill would also allow SDF planes to also transport foreign nationals caught up in the same emergencies as Japanese.

Vows To Proceed With Reform

OW1403141892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1348 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Shimabara, Nagasaki Prefecture, March 14 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa vowed Saturday to push for political reform amid mounting calls for a shake-up in the wake of a series of money scandals implicating politicians.

He was speaking to reporters at a hotel in Shimabara, Nagasaki Prefecture, after inspecting areas hit by the Mt. Unzen volcano.

Miyazawa pledged to do his best to correct the disparity in the value of each vote in general elections for the House of Representatives.

Currently, one vote in an electoral district in depopulated downtown Tokyo is worth 3.8 times more than one in a fast urbanizing constituency in Chiba Prefecture. Generally, the value of votes in sparsely populated rural areas is much greater than those in urban districts.

Friday's passage of the fiscal 1992 budget through the lower house gives the prime minister the opportunity to tackle political reform, political sources say.

They said Miyazawa needs to achieve reform before the triennial July election for the House of Councillors because of his cabinet's declining popularity over the scandals involving Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a major delivery firm, and Kyowa Co., a defunct steel-frame maker.

In the Kyowa scandal, a close ally of Miyazawa's, Fumio Abe, was arrested and indicted on a bribery charge. Opposition candidates defeated ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] ones in two recent by-elections for the upper house in Nara and Miyagi Prefectures.

The prime minister said at the news conference he supports a set of proposals put forth by the LDP political reform panel on Friday, which called for reducing the present gap in the value of votes gradually to around 2 to 1.

But Miyazawa stopped short of committing himself to achieve a correction of vote disparity during the current ordinary session of the Diet, which is due to last through June 20.

He said, "this is after all a target. It depends on the outcome of talks between ruling and opposition parties."

Miyazawa said he hopes bills on political reforms worked out by an inter-party panel will be submitted to the Diet one after another for enactment. The panel is scheduled to start discussions later this month.

Miyazawa said he will do his best to have reforms endorsed by the panel passed in the Diet.

He said he plans to work out a comprehensive reform program in November on the basis of the panel's decisions.

On relief funds for the victims of volcanic eruptions, the prime minister said his government is ready to increase it to 60 billion yen from the present 33 billion yen.

The government will extend food support for victims for another six months and improve living conditions at temporary shelters for evacuees, he said.

Miyazawa inspected damage caused by eruptions of Mount Unzen in Shimabara aboard a helicopter.

The volcano, dormant for about two centuries, erupted last May, destroying thousands of homes and forcing more than 10,000 residents to evacuate and live in shelters.

Postelection Political Reorganization Suggested

OW1403092292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0753 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Morioka, March 14 KYODO—A senior ruling party official Saturday warned of a political reorganization depending on the outcome of the House of Councillors election this summer.

Ichiro Ozawa, former secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), issued the warning as Japan's political world was rocked by a series of payoff and kickback scandals.

"The election may bring a major change to Japan's political situation as it is held at a time the domestic and international situations face a period of transition," he said.

Ozawa made the remarks at a news conference in this northern Japanese city in the wake of the defeat by an LDP candidate in the upper house by-election last Sunday.

He ruled out a possibility that the LDP's election loss will cause an immediate impact on Japan's political situation.

It is necessary for the LDP to "bravely and honestly" respond to the people's questions about problems of their interest, such as political reforms and liberalization of rice imports, during campaigns for the upper house election this summer, he said.

Ozawa said Japan should, in principle, pursue its policy of self- sufficiency in rice production.

Tanabe To Recommend Yasutsune's Diet Resignation

OW1403013192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0016 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairman Makoto Tanabe plans to recommend that one of the party's legislators resign from the Diet because of his alleged links to a scandal-tainted trucking firm, a top party official said Friday.

The leader of the largest opposition party will meet Monday with Ryoichi Yasutsune, an SDP member in the House of Councillors, to urge that he resign from the Diet.

Yasutsune acknowledged that he borrowed 5 million yen from an affiliate of the Sagawa Kyubin group of trucking companies in 1989, but said that he returned the money to the firm.

The party's disciplinary committee began to probe the links between Yasutsune and the firm Thursday.

The committee is expected to decide to expel him from the party in a meeting next Thursday, the official said.

During 1989 Diet sessions, Yasutsune allegedly softened his questions directed at the government about the trucking firm.

Says Decision Should Be Voluntary

OW1403124992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1234 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Nagano, March 14 KYODO—Social Democratic Party [SDP] Chairman Makoto Tanabe indicated Saturday that he will urge a party Diet member to resign because of his alleged links to the scandal-tainted Sagawa Kyubin corporate group.

Ryoichi Yasutsune, an SDP member in the House of Councillors, has admitted that he received 5 million yen in loans from an affiliate of the Kyoto-based Sagawa Kyubin Group in 1989. Yasutsune has said he has already returned the money to the firm. The loans were revealed recently in news reports.

"It is up to Mr. Yasutsune himself to decide voluntarily what to do next," Tanabe said at a Nagano news conference. "(I) would like to urge him to decide on (his future)." Tanabe is in Nagano to attend an SDP shadow cabinet session.

Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a key member of the Sagawa Kyubin Group, is at the center of a massive loan scandal which involves more than 500 billion yen in loans and loan guarantees.

Tanabe, head of the country's No. 2 opposition party, is scheduled to call in Yasutsune for face-to-face talks at the party headquarters in Tokyo on Monday.

On Friday, a senior SDP official said Tanabe planned to recommend that Yasutsune resign from the Diet.

The SDP's disciplinary committee, which Thursday began probing links between Yasutsune and the Sagawa Kyubin Group, is expected to decide to expel him from the party in a meeting next Thursday, the official said.

During 1989 Diet sessions, Yasutsune allegedly softened his earlier tough questioning of the government about Sagawa Kyubin.

On March 6, prosecutors indicted three former executive officials of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin and another businessman on charges of aggravated breach of trust which resulted in a 64.5 billion yen loss for the parcel delivery company.

Among the four indicted were the former Tokyo Sagawa President, Hiroyasu Watanabe, 57, and Jun Saotome, 53, a former managing director of the company.

In the Tokyo Sagawa loan scandal, about 100 billion yen allegedly was provided to companies affiliated with Susumu Ishii, the late boss of the Inagawa-kai, the country's second-largest Yakuza syndicate.

A huge amount of money also was reportedly distributed among politicians from both ruling and opposition parties.

Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin is a core company of the Sagawa group of trucking companies which was set up in 1977 and capitalized at 130 million yen. It employs about 3,700 people.

Candidates Begin Campaigns in Gunma By-Election

OW1403043592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0406 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Maebashi, March 14 KYODO—Four candidates started their campaigns Saturday in a by-election race for two House of Representatives seats in Gunma Prefecture amid increasing public criticism over recent political scandals.

Candidates who registered for the March 29 by-election include Yoshio Yatsu, 57, and Yojiro Nakajima, 32, both backed by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

The other two candidates are Keiji Kosuge, 41, who is supported by the Japanese Communist Party (JCP), and Toshie Sunaga, 41, of the Social Democratic Party (SDP).

The by-election in Gunma Prefecture's second constituency is being held following the death of two legislators, LDP Gentaro Nakajima and SDP Toru Sunaga.

Toshie Sunaga, director of a consumer cooperative, is wife of the late Toru Sunaga, and Yojiro Nakajima, a former Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) reporter, is the second son of the late Gentaro Nakajima.

Japan's election law stipulates that a by-election should be held if two or more lower house seats become vacant in a single constituency.

Ruling party candidates were defeated recently in two other House of Councillors by-elections.

Opposition party candidates won a February 10 by-election in Nara Prefecture in western Japan, as well as in Miyagi Prefecture in northern Japan on March 9.

Political analysts said the recent by-elections dealt a heavy blow to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and his party, and they attributed the outcomes to a series of scandals involving LDP politicians.

Lower House Panel Passes Fiscal 1992 Budget

OW1303080092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0641 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 13 KYODO—The House of Representatives Budget Committee on Friday approved a government-proposed 72,218 billion yen budget for fiscal 1992, which begins on April 1. The lower house plenary session is expected to pass the budget bill later in the day and send it to the House of Councillors.

The budget plan is up 2.7 percent from the initial budget for fiscal 1991, the smallest increase in five years. Defense spending will increase by 3.78 percent, the smallest growth in 32 years, to 4,551.8 billion yen, or 0.94 percent of the country's gross national product.

The outlay for official development assistance (ODA), or overseas aid, is up 7.8 percent to 952.2 billion yen, the largest rise among the general operating expenditures, which cover social security, defense, public works, education, and other public outlays.

Minister Hata Says National Economy Strong

OW1603121592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1152 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 (KYODO)—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Monday the decline of stock prices to a five-year low is due to "temporary" factors, stressing Japan's economy remains strong.

Hata said at a press conference that such "temporary factors" as selling related to the Tokkin and Fund Trusts before the fiscal year ends March 31 helped push the 225 Nikkei Stock Average below 20,000.

"The economic fundamentals in Japan are relatively good," the finance minister said, pointing to stable prices, low unemployment rates, and signs of recovery in the housing sector.

"I hope investors are not bewildered (by the price moves) and will take a cool-headed and discrete investment attitude," he added.

Hata admitted that stock scandals which began surfacing last year have eroded the investors' confidence in the securities market, as well as prospects of poor corporate profits.

But he said cuts in the official discount rate since last July and expanded public works projects contained in the fiscal 1992 budget should help spur the decelerating domestic economy.

"These measures should have a positive impact on the stock market as well," he said.

"The level of interest rates in the market has fallen to the level that should not make companies tight-fisted about capital spending," he added.

LDP's Kanemaru Renews Call for Key Rate Cut

OW1403051592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0443 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Gifu, March 14 KYODO—Shin Kanemaru, deputy president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), renewed his call Saturday for the Bank of Japan (BOJ) to reduce its official discount rate to revitalize the sluggish economy.

Speaking at a party at a hotel, Kanemaru said he is worried about the future of the economy, which is taking a downward turn.

The BOJ last time trimmed the key rate by half a percentage point to the current 4.5 percent per annum late last year. It was the fourth change since July.

The NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN reported in a Saturday front page story that the central bank is likely to reduce the rate, charged on loans to banks, by 0.5 point by the end of the month.

The bank is also expected to start ironing out differences with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet on measures to stimulate the economy.

"(Japanese) stock prices continue to decline and corporate managers refrain from investing in facilities and equipment. There is no demand for money," Kanemaru said.

The political leader's early remarks that Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno, who ignores calls for credit easing, should step down, caused disputes among business and political circles.

Takeshita Seeks Decisive Step To Spur Economy

OW1403092392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0755 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Gifu, March 14 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita called Saturday for a "decisive" pump-priming package to stimulate the sluggish Japanese economy, hinting the package should include lowering a key rate cut by the Bank of Japan.

"Economics is psychology," he said in a meeting of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, adding that psychologically Japanese now believe their economy is declining, which has discouraged capital and consumer spending.

Mieno Dismisses Discount Rate Cut Speculation

OW1603035092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0323 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno repeated Monday his cautious view about reducing the central bank's official discount rate, dismissing widespread expectations of a rate cut soon to rev up the sagging economy.

Mieno told the House of Councillors' Budget Committee that the Japanese economy is now in an "adjustment phase" toward well-balanced growth but said that the situation is such that the impact of the past three discount rate cuts must be watched carefully.

He went on to say that the effect of the fiscal 1992 budget which passed through the decisive House of Representatives last week also must be considered.

Brushing aside growing calls from politicians and businessmen for a rate cut, Mieno stressed that his bank has authority to decide independently whether to reduce the discount rate.

Mieno also said monetary policy must be decided on various factors such as prices, foreign exchange rates, and the nation's balance of payments.

The discount rate, which the central bank charges on loans to commercial banks, now stands at 4.5 percent per annum after last being lowered by half a percentage point on December 30 last year.

Increase in Business Bankruptcy Cases Reported

OW1603054892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0536 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—The number of business failures in February soared 56.2 percent from a year before to 1,056 cases while their aggregate debt jumped 38.9 percent to 457.08 billion yen, a private credit agency reported Monday.

As the nation's economic slowdown pace is intensifying, the number of companies that went broke with liabilities of more than 10 million yen rose 11.3 percent compared with January, and their liabilities increased 2.0 percent, Teikoku Data Bank Ltd. said.

An official at the agency said the figures clearly show that bankruptcies are still on the rise, mainly major cases involving real estate concerns hit by the collapse of the so-called "bubble economy."

Insolvencies among real estate companies rose 37.7 percent year on year.

It was the 17th consecutive month that bankruptcies have topped year-earlier figures, the agency said.

The agency also estimated liabilities in fiscal 1991, which ends this month, are likely to amount to around 7.6 trillion yen, far surpassing the record 4.34 trillion yen set in fiscal 1985.

Nine bankrupt companies left debts of 10 billion yen or more, including Gendai Kensetsu Co., which had debts of 50 billion yen, Kinki Fudosan Co., with debts of 35.1 billion yen, and the major TV production company Totsu Co., with 24.5 billion yen in debts.

Despite the slowdown of the economy, the labor shortage caused 49 bankruptcies, the 15th straight month that category topped 40 cases.

On an industry basis, insolvencies by construction concerns ballooned 64.0 percent year on year to 205 cases, by manufacturers 66.0 percent to 166, wholesalers 45.3 percent to 247, retailers 43.9 percent to 190, service companies 90.9 percent to 105, and transportation and communications firms 222.2 percent to 29, the agency said.

Financial Worries Reportedly Curb Population

OW1403101892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0915 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—About 60 percent of Japanese women do not fulfill their hope of having three or more children because of the expected financial burdens and a lack of housing space, the Prime Minister's Office said Saturday in a report.

The survey was conducted last November covering 3,000 adults across the country, to which 71.2 percent responded. About 1,600 women were among the pollees.

It found 46.7 percent of the respondents want three children, 31.4 percent want two, 7.2 percent want five or more, and 5.8 percent want four.

Asked why those aiming to have between one and four children do not want any more, seven out of 10 cited the heavier financial burdens.

The anticipated physical and mental hardships, insufficient space, and the desire to spend time on things other than child care were each mentioned by 20 percent of respondents, who could select more than one answer.

The survey also showed the number of women considering themselves economically independent leaped to 58.6 percent, up 9.9 percentage points from a similar survey five years ago.

Women considering themselves mentally dependent jumped by 10.6 percentage points to 81.1 percent.

The Health and Welfare Ministry found in a survey released last June that Japanese women gave birth to a lifetime average of 1.53 children by 1990, the lowest figure in 23 years.

More than 90 percent of married respondents said wives are responsible for cleaning, washing, preparing meals, and clearing the table.

Husbands mostly take care of relations with neighbors and disciplining the children, according to the survey, with 20 percent of wives wanting their spouses to do more of both.

Most women under 40 wanted their husbands to help with the children's education, the new survey shows. But more than 40 percent of women aged 40 or older expect their husbands to do nothing in particular.

Miyazawa Visits Mt. Unzen Area, Meets Evacuees

OW1403072992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0716 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Shimabara, Nagasaki Prefecuture, March 14 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa Saturday flew over the volcano-battered city of Shimabara in a helicopter to inspect some areas near Mt. Unzen.

The volcano erupted May 30, 1991 after being dormant for about 200 years. A pyroclastic flow June 3 killed 41 people, including many jounalists.

The eruption and others that followed destroyed hundreds of homes and caused the evacuation of more than 10,000 residents in the city and the neighboring town of Fukae.

Tight-lipped Miyazawa, with a harsh look on his face, threw away a bunch of flowers from the helicopter above the scene of the June 3 tragedy and prayed the victims' souls would rest in peace.

In the helicopter Nagasaki Governor Isamu Takada explained to the premier the current situation with a local map.

Miyazawa also met Akikazu Kanegae, mayor of Shimabara and chief executive committee member for the reconstruction of the area destroyed by the volcano eruption.

The prime minister then visited evacuees at their temporary homes to offer encouragement.

Miyazawa said at a news conference that his government hopes to introduce a political reform bill to the current session of the Diet.

He said he supports the view held by Hajime Ishii, chairman of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's political reform headquarters panel, that the maximum value of a rural vote relative to an urban vote in lower house elections should be cut to 2 to 1 from the present 3.38 to 1.

Miyazawa said he will await the outcome of talks between representatives of the ruling and opposition parties on that subject.

North Korea

KGB Report Claims 'Nuclear Device' Completed

OW1503064292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0443 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, March 15 KYODO—North Korea completed developing a nuclear detonative device by February 1990, a weekly Moscow newspaper reported Saturday.

The ARGUMENTY I FAKTY (ARGUMENTS AND FACTS) quoted a top secret 1990 report submitted by former Soviet State Security Committee (KGB) Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov to the former Soviet Communist Party Central Committee.

The document, dated February 8, 1990, said information the KGB obtained from reliable sources showed that North Korea finished developing a nuclear detonative device at a nuclear research center in Yongbyon, some 90 kilometers north of its capital city Pyongyang, according to the weekly.

The KGB report was also quoted as saying that nuclear development was done under the direct command of Kim Chong-il, secretary of the Korean Workers' Party Central Committee and son of president Kim Il-song, to give North Korea a higher military advantage over South Korea.

It said North Korea did not conduct nuclear tests because it wanted to prevent international nuclear control bodies from knowing about the development.

The weekly also quoted the report as saying the KGB would investigate the issue further to confirm the information, and indicated that the Central Committee received the report on February 22, 1990.

North Korea has denied reports that it is developing nuclear weapons, and in January the nation signed a nuclear safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Delegates to Joint Nuclear Control Committee Meet

SK1403154592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1532 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 14 (KCNA)—The seventh contact between delegates of both sides was held in camera today in the South side's portion of Panmunjom to consult the formation and operation of the North-South Nuclear Control Joint Committee.

Delegate of our side Choe U-chin gave a news briefing on the contact today.

According to him, the readjustment and arrangement of the text of a draft agreement on the formation and operation of the North-South Nuclear Control Joint Committee was completed at the contact.

Thus the North and the South have agreed on forming the North- South Nuclear Control Joint Committee through seven rounds of contacts from February 19 to March 14, 1992.

The agreement initialled today will take effect from the day when the premiers of the two sides sign and exchange its texts.

Specified in detail in the six-article agreement are matters of the formation, function and operation of the North-South Nuclear Control Joint Committee and its effectuation, amendment and supplement.

The delegates of both sides agreed on and made public "joint communique on the contact between delegates of the North and the South to discuss the formation and operation of the North-South Nuclear Control Joint Committee".

Delegate Reports on Contact

SK1403132692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] The seventh contact between the two sides' delegates was held today on the South side's area of Panmunjom to discuss the formation and operation of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee. The contact was held behind closed doors.

After the contact, Choe U-chin, our side's delegate, gave a news conference about the contact.

He said: At today's contact the two sides completely finished drafting the agreement on the formation and operation of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee. In doing so, the North and South agreed to form the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee after seven rounds of delegates' contacts held between 19 February and 14 March 1992.

At today's contact, the two sides discussed a deadline for adopting clauses on nuclear inspection, an issue on which they have had differences of opinion.

Our side said: As stipulated in the articles in the joint denclearization declaration signed and effectuated by the two sides' premiers, the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee should be formed, and its first meeting should be held by 18 March. Therefore, the joint committee should first be inaugurated, and the pending issues should be discussed there.

Taking into consideration the South side's demand, our side presented a new compromise proposal recommending that the joint committee can adopt in two months documents needed for the verification of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, including nuclear weapons and nuclear bases.

As a result, the two sides decided to handle this proposal by specifying the content of our side's new proposal in the joint communique. Thus, the contact completely finished drafting the Agreement on the Formation and Operation of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee, and the two sides' delegates initialed the agreement.

The agreement that was initialed today will become effective when the two sides' premiers exchange the signed copies.

The six-article Agreement on the Formation and Operation of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee specifies in detail the formation and operation of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee and its functions, how to effectuate the agreement, and how to amend the agreement.

Also, the two sides' delegates agreed on and released a joint communique on the North-South delegates' contact which discussed the formation and operation of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee.

Communique Issued

SK1403144592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1210 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Joint communique on the North-South delegates' contact to discuss the formation and operation of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee released on 14 March in Panmunjom—read by announcer]

[Text] According to the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the North-South delegates' contact to discuss the formation and operation of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee was held on seven occasions between 19 February and 14 March 1992.

After sincerely discussing and negotiating the draft Agreement on the Formation and Operation of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee, the two sides' delegates finished drafting the agreement and initialed it.

The two sides agreed on the following:

1. The North and South shall exchange on two occasions—17 and 19 March 1992—in Panmunjom the Agreement on the Formation and Operation of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee signed by the two sides' premiers.

2. The North and South shall inform each other of the lists of North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee members on 18 March 1992.

3. The first meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee shall be held on 19 March 1992 at Tongilgak in the North side's area of Panmunjom.

4. The North and South shall jointly make efforts to adopt documents for the verification of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula within about two months after the first meeting of the North- South Joint Nuclear Control Committee. The North and South agreed to start inspection within 20 days after the adoption of the documents.

14 March 1992, Panmunjom.

Nuclear Control Committee Agreement

SK1403135192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1206 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Report on the Agreement on the Formation and Operation of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee initialed at the delegates' contact in Panmunjom on 14 March—read by announcer]

[Text] The Agreement on the Formation and Operation of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee to be signed by the premiers of the North and South on 18 March is:

The North and South agreed to form and operate the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee to implement the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula as follows:

1. The Joint Nuclear Control Committee shall be formed as follows:

1) The Joint Nuclear Control Committee shall be composed of seven members, including one chairman and one vice chairman from each side, and one or two members, to include active-duty soldiers. The chairmen will be vice-minister level officials.

2) When they replace members of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee, each side shall notify the other in advance.

3) The Joint Nuclear Control Committee shall have seven suite members, and this number can be readjusted if necessary as agreed upon by the two sides.

2. The Joint Nuclear Control Committee shall discuss and handle the following:

1) The adoption and handling of auxiliary documents on how to implement the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and other related issues.

2) The exchange of information necessary for verifying the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, including information on nuclear facilities, nuclear material, and nuclear weapons and nuclear bases that each side insists are suspicious.

3) The formation and operation of inspection teams for verifying the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

4) The selection of facilities for inspection when verifying the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, including nuclear facilities, nuclear material, and nuclear weapons and nuclear bases that each side insists are suspicious; inspection procedures; and inspection methods.

5) Issues concerning equipment to be used in nuclear inspection.

6) Issues concerning rectifications as a result of nuclear inspection.

7) Issues concerning the implementation of the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the resolution of disputes in inspection activities.

3. The Joint Nuclear Control Committee shall be operated as follows:

1) Joint Nuclear Control Committee meetings shall take place every two months in principle and can take place at any time as the two sides agree.

2) Joint Nuclear Control Committee meetings shall take place alternately in Tongilgak on the North side's area and in the House of Peace on the South side's area of Panmunjom in principle and can take place as the two sides agree.

3) Joint Nuclear Control Committee meetings shall be jointly presided over by the two sides' chairmen. They shall take place behind closed doors in principle.

4) Issues concerning the guarantee of personal safety for people who visit each other's area to attend Joint Nuclear Control Committee meetings, providing them with conveniences and writing down details of meetings, and other procedural matters shall be handled according to usage.

5) Other matters necessary for the operation of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee shall be discussed and decided by the two sides at the Joint Nuclear Control Committee.

4. The agreements on the Joint Nuclear Control Committee shall become effective from the day the two sides' premiers sign those agreements. As the case may be, important documents that the two sides shall agree on shall become effective from the day the two sides' premiers sign them and exchange their copies after completing ratification procedures.

5. This agreement can be amended and supplemented as the two sides agree.

6. This agreement will become effective from the day the two sides sign the documents and exchange their signed copies.

[Dated] 18 March 1992

[Signed] Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK Administration Council and head of the North side's delegation to the North-south high-level talks;

Chong Won-sik, prime minister of the ROK and head of the South side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks.

First N-S Military Subcommittee Meeting Held

SK1303132992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] The first meeting of the Military Subcommittee of the North-South high level talks was held at Tongilgak on our side of Panmunjom on 13 March.

At 1000 this morning, Kim Yong-chol, chairman of the Military Subcommittee of the North-South high level talks and six subcommittee members from our side met Chairman Pak Yong-ok and six members from the South side.

The chairman from our side introduced the North's members of the North-South Military Subcommittee to the South side, and the South side's chairman introduced his side's members.

The meeting today was held behind closed doors according to the agreement of the two sides. After the meeting, Chairman Kim Yong-chol held a news conference and informed the reporters of the status of the meeting.

According to Kim, our side made a keynote speech at the meeting, stressing that peace on the Korean peninsula is the most urgent problem for the North and the South to solve, giving it the significance of prior importance. Our side said that in the present grave situation, in which the North and the South maintain a state of confrontation and aim their guns at each other, the two sides cannot realize political reconciliation or cooperation and exchange. If a war breaks out, the damage will be enormous, and if that happens, reunification itself will become meaningless. Our side stressed that this is why we have given the significance of prior importance to peace and to the issue of ending military confrontation and are making every effort to resolve these issues.

Our side said that the remaining issue is to sincerely implement the historic North-South agreement and the joint declaration and to rapidly conclude the auxiliary agreements for the implementation and observance of nonaggression and give birth to it. Saying that the delegates of both sides should have the correct attitude and position when they come to the meeting, our side said that the important thing here is to maintain an independent position, to abandon the concept of confrontation, and to have a truly serious and sincere attitude in order to end military confrontation between the North and the South and ensure peace.

Our side then set forth our views on the two problems that the two sides are to discuss and solve at the Military Subcommittee meetings. First is the problem of adopting the auxiliary agreement. Our side said that the auxiliary agreement should be consistent with the North-South agreement, conform to the mission of the subcommittee, and take into consideration the principles that enable the two sides to reach agreement easily. Our side noted that the auxiliary agreement, therefore, should be effectuated at the seventh round of North-South high level talks.

Then our side put forth the draft of the auxiliary agreement for Chapter 2 on the implementation and observance of the nonaggression between the North and the South of the North-South Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange.

The draft of the auxiliary agreement stipulates in 15 paragraphs the specific measures for Chapter 2, consisting of six clauses of the North-South agreement, on the implementation and observance of North-South nonaggression.

Second is the problem of the agreement on the formation and operation of the North-South Joint Military Committee. Our side said that since the North and the South have agreed on this problem in principle, the two sides should form the Joint Military Committee in such as way as to prevent aggression and war at the source, smoothly solve all military problems in conformity with its mission, and clearly specify its function and direction of activity. Our side proposed a draft of the agreement on the formation and operation of the North-South Joint Military Committee worked out on this principle.

The draft agreement consists of six articles and 14 paragraphs specifically stipulating the formation, function, and operation of the North-South Joint Military Committee and its effectuation, amendment, and supplement. The draft of the agreement proposed by our side has been worked out reasonably so that it can comprehensively deal with the issue of ensuring peace.

The South side chairman then spoke at the meeting. In the speech, the South side said that the subject of nonaggression reflects the nation's yearning to end the state of military confrontation, and that the principle of solving the problem between the parties concerned in the North and the South, the principle of pushing ahead with a matter in a balanced manner [*kyunhyong chujinui wonchik*], and the principle of practicability [*silchonsong pojangui wonchik*] should be observed. The South side proposed only the drafts of agreements on the formation and operation of the Joint Military Committee and on installing a hotline, avoiding putting forward a draft of auxiliary agreement, the basic and key matter that should be solved by the Military Subcommittee.

Moreover, the South side arrogantly and rudely brought up the issue of nuclear inspection again and slandered us.

Through the keynote speeches made at the meeting, it has become clear who is sincere and who is insincere about the spirit of the North-South agreement, which has been effectuated, and the agreement on the formation and operation of the subcommittee. Before entering the discussion of the main problem, our side strongly asked the South side why it should again bring up the issue nuclear inspection, which is irrelevant to the mission of the North- South Military Subcommittee. Our side noted in detail, referring to historical facts, that it was the South's authorities who gave birth to the nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula. They allowed the United States to bring nuclear weapons into South Korea some 30 years ago, posed a nuclear threat against us, and made the South Korean people nuclear hostages.

Then our side said that the United States is stirring up a commotion about nuclear inspection in order to continue its occupation of South Korea. It is using the nuclear issue as a new element in the pretext of a threat of southward invasion now that the pretext no longer exists since the effectuation of the North- South agreement. Its purpose is to prevent our nation from reconciling and uniting, and we asked why the South side should be sympathetic to this.

Our side continued: That the South side raised this issue again betrays the North-South agreement which the premiers of the two sides have signed and declared effective to the entire nation and the people of the world. It is a tactic aimed at raising an artificial obstacle to the discussion of issues by delaying the talks. We stressed that the South side should now collect their thoughts and think of rejecting outside forces, joining their strength with us, the same nation, and defending the interests of the nation.

Our side expressed its opinion abut the South side's keynote speech. According to this, the mission of the Military Subcommittee is to discuss and adopt the auxiliary agreement for the implementation of nonaggression between the North and the South and the agreement on the formation and operation of the Joint Military Committee, but the South side came to the first round of meetings today without a draft of the auxiliary agreement. Moreover, the South side took an attitude of interpreting arbitrarily the agreement already agreed upon between the North and the South. That the South side came to the meeting without a draft of the auxiliary agreement on the implementation of nonaggression goes against elementary common sense in looking for a way to discuss a problem, and it is an act unprecedented in North-South dialogue.

Our side urged the South side to come to the meeting after fully examining the content of the agreement signed by the two sides' premiers. We said that delaying the discussion of the auxiliary agreement while demanding that the issue of the formation and operation of the joint committee and the installation of a hotline be discussed first is contradictory.

In addition, our side pointed out that it can only regard this as a matter of grave significance because this attitude taken by the South side comes from the same motive as the remarks made by the South side's authorities that it must delay the discussion of other issues if the nuclear issue is not resolved.

At the same time, because the South side failed to present a draft of the auxiliary agreement, our side said that it is ready either to hold discussions based on the draft of the auxiliary agreement presented by our side or to adjourn the meeting and wait for the South side to bring it from Seoul after contacting the authorities there. However, the South side avoided replying to the two alternatives we proposed.

The South side suggested that the two sides meet again and proposed that the first round be concluded. Our side urged the South side to study better the agreement that the premiers of the two sides have signed and declared effective and come to the next meeting.

The second meeting is to be held on 31 March.

SKNDF Statement on Secret Nuclear Depot

SK1203094092 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Statement by the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front, SKNDF, in Seoul on 9 March—recorded]

[Text] The 5 March remark by Chong Chu-yong, former honorary chairman of Hyundai Group, that he personally supervised the top secret construction of a depot to store U.S. Forces' atomic bombs in a mountain tunnel, is causing a great commotion at home and abroad. Mr. Chong Chu-yong's remarks on a secret depot to store nuclear weapons make us seriously doubt the credibility of traitor No Tae- u's declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons.

Withdrawing all U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea is a life and death matter directly linked to the fate of our people on this land. Therefore, during the past 30 years, 70 million fellow countrymen of the North and South have vigorously struggled to free our land of nuclear weapons. As a result, following the North-South agreement, the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean peninsula was signed.

With the hope of living in a nuclear-free land, our fellow countrymen welcomed this important joint declaration and are consistently urging the North and South authorities to fulfill their responsibility by immediately putting it into practice and action.

Nevertheless, even today when the joint declaration on denuclearization has been put into effect, the No Tae-u group is designating specific conglomerates under the pretext of raising political funds to continue to secretly construct a storage depot for nuclear weapons. This shows the brutally wicked antinational criminal act of executing the U.S. imperialists' nuclear war strategy at the price of prolonging its regime. This makes us angry.

If traitor No Tae-u truly intends to denuclearize the Korean peninsula, he should have completely and clearly revealed the deployment of nuclear weapons and the situation of nuclear bases so that our people could see that nuclear weapons were absent before the announcement was made. It would have also been appropriate for him to accept an overall nuclear inspection rather than insisting on a perfunctory and partial trial inspection to sincerely implement the North-South Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Nevertheless, traitor No Tae-u shut his eyes to all of this and declared the absence of nuclear weapons with one or two words. This is empty talk convincing no one, and it is nothing but a political tactic and a preposterous mockery of our people and the whole nation.

North Korea signed the nuclear safeguards accord in January with the International Atomic Energy Agency for the definite implementation of the joint declaration on denuclearization and openly revealed to the whole world that it will deliberate and ratify it at the upcoming third session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly in April.

Therefore, as already declared, the North Korean authorities are actually showing that they do not have the intention nor the capability to produce nuclear weapons. However, the No Tae-u group is making bellicose remarks without a moment's hesitation that U.S. military action is inevitable if we do not accept nuclear inspection immediately. It is also dragging in large amounts of up-to-date weapons and every day engages in various nuclear war exercises in place of the Team Spirit joint military exercise. This runs counter to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

All of this confirms that traitor No Tae-u is indeed a nuclear war agent for the U.S. imperialists and is not concerned about denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

The disclosure that a secret depot to store nuclear weapons was constructed is only the tip of the iceberg. This is enough to reveal the true face of the No Tae-u regime, a group of nation- selling traitors who are ready to allow nuclear weapons to exterminate the nation and sterilize the whole territory if it will prolong their dirty remaining days and maintain their power.

It is our people's firm will and resolution never to let up on the No Tae-u group for the denuclearization and peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula. Our people will certainly put their will into practice in the upcoming 14th general elections by defeating No Tae-u's Democratic Liberal Party.

Traitor No Tae-u must clearly see the nation's ever-growing resentment, immediately stop the construction of the secret storage depot for nuclear weapons, and reveal to the public the hidden nuclear weapons and the state of their stockpile. At the same time, he must withdraw all nuclear weapons from this land at once and accept an overall inspection so that the entire nation and the world can dispel their suspicion.

Our South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] will wage the antiwar, antinuclear, anti-U.S. and anti-No Tae-u struggle more vigorously along with people from all walks of life who want to live as a reunified nation on the peaceful Korean peninsula without nuclear weapons and war.

[Dated] 9 March 1992

[Signed] SKNDF Central Committee, Seoul

U.S. 'Slandering' Over Nuclear Issue Condemned

SK1403051392 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0458 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 14 (KCNA)—Some quarters of the United States are groundlessly slandering us over the "nuclear problem".

Lehman, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, at a round-table conversation at the press centre in Washington on March 12 cried that the United States "is worried over North Korea's attempt to conceal nuclear development", according to a report.

We declared more than once that we have neither the intention nor the capacity to develop nuclear weapons and have no nuclear weapons.

Accordingly, we have no need to conceal anything and have nothing to conceal.

The allegation about our "attempt to conceal nuclear development" does not stand to reason at all.

Nevertheless, the U.S. bellicose quarters are persistently slandering us. Why?

This is because the U.S. rulers are trying to justify their policy of converting South Korea into a nuclear base and conceal the presence of their nuclear weapons there.

RisCassi, commander of the U.S. forces present in South Korea, at a recent U.S. Congress hearing avoided answering a question as to whether there were nuclear weapons in South Korea, or not, according to the U.S. NCND [neither confirm nor deny] policy.

The world public shows serious doubts about the statement of the South Korean chief executive, who has no right to the U.S. nuclear weapons, that there is no nuclear weapons in South Korea, regarding it incredible.

It is a heavy blow at the U.S. attempt to conceal nuclear weapons that Chong Chu-yong, former honorary chairman of the Hyundai Business Group of South Korea, confessed that he had undertaken the construction of a secret arsenal for the U.S. nuclear weapons.

Upset by this, the United States is trying to mislead the world public with the fiction of "concealment of nuclear development" by the DPRK and justify its own aggressive nuclear policy.

The United States must not arbitrarily vilify others, concealing its own dark intention.

It must discard the old mode of thinking for dominating and holding down others and act with discretion.

U.S. 'Ambition for World Supremacy' Denounced

SK1403053792 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0510 GMT 14 Mar 92

["Unsatiable U.S. Ambition for World Supremacy"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 14 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today brands the socalled "defense policy draft" of the U.S. Defense Department as a post-cold war strategic document of the Bush administration for world supremacy, which reveals the unsatiable ambition of the U.S. imperialists to reign as the only dominator and ruler of the world.

The news analyst says:

The document glaringly reveals the extreme arrogance of the United States to behave as the only superpower in the world and control and dominate all countries and nations.

The U.S. imperialists set it as their final objective to deter any nation from challenging U.S. primacy.

The U.S. policy toward Europe is, first of all, designed to prevent the former Soviet Union from reviving or any nation of the Commonwealth of Independent States from emerging as a rival superpower. The strategic and tactical nuclear weapons reduction plan and the aid policy published by Bush recently are aimed at that goal, in fact.

Another goal of the European policy of the U.S. is to prevent Germany and France, its "allies", from emerging as rival forces. This scheme is revealed by the "policy draft" which calls for "frustrating the concept of an independent security organisation of Europe which would endanger NATO" and "restraining the pan-European concept" and maintaining the forward deployment of U.S. armed forces in Europe. The document stresses that the strategic goal should also focus on ensuring that no rival country is allowed to emerge in Asia. The U.S. military lays a strong emphasis on "using military force, if necessary," specifically against the DPRK under the pretext of "preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction." This openly suggests that the U.S. imperialists plan to make a new military adventure against the DPRK with a frantic row over "threat from nuclear development."

U.S. imperialism, the most shameless and brigandish in the contemporary times, is the top dominationism that threatens the sovereignty of all countries.

U.S. 'Military Adventure' in South Denounced

SK1303103992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "Military Adventure Cannot Work"]

[Text] New U.S. imperialist and South Korean puppet war provocation maneuvers are being carried out more viciously these days.

According to military sources, heads of the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces sneaked into South Korea from bases on the U.S. mainland and in the Pacific area and are conspiring with the puppets about a war. On 10 March the U.S. Pacific Air Force Command conducted a criminal joint nuclear air strike exercise using the Korean peninsula as an operational target.

This provocative war exercise was conducted over Tokjok Island, Kunwi, and Yoju. The first stage was a long flight of formations of Pacific-based nuclear-capable fighter bombers over South Korea. This exercise was very dangerous, like playing with fire. The fighter-bombers, in coordination with nuclear-carrying fighter-bombers belonging to U.S. 7th Air Force, are to strike strategic targets deep in the northern half of the Republic and rapidly return to their bases, thus becoming familiar with combat.

More than 10 nuclear-carrying fighter-bombers deployed in bases on the Japanese mainland and in the Pacific and F-16 fighter-bombers belonging to U.S. Air Force in South Korea were mobilized.

That same day, the U.S. imperialists also mobilized a U-2 high- altitude strategic reconnaissance plane along the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] and flew between the east and the west in order to conduct electronic espionage on the northern half of the Republic.

The South Korean puppets, supported by F-16, F-5, and A-6 fighter-bombers and attack planes, staged a frantic war exercise designed to launch a surprise attack on targets in the landing areas, to support units engaged in a landing operation, and to extend the battle to Tokjok Island.

More than 600 warplanes and 150 combat vessels engaged in a war exercise over South Korea and in the sea against the northern half of the Republic that day.

This is a criminal act to purposely hinder implementation of the North-South agreement and joint declaration on denuclearization and to put an extreme strain on our country. It is also a vicious challenge to our people, who aspire for peace and peaceful reunification.

As everyone knows, the North-South agreement and joint declaration on denuclearization were adopted and entered the stage of implementation in our country, bringing new prospects for the nation's peace and peaceful reunification.

These developments brought joy to our people and the world's peace-loving people who desire peace on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification. The South Korean authorities say they want to reconcile when they are sitting with us, but after they leave they run amok more viciously with the U.S. imperialists in war exercise against the other side.

The South side's criminal maneuver is clearly aimed at confrontation, not reconciliation. The South side's position favoring confrontation is clearly shown by the fact that it is dancing to the tune of the U.S. imperialists, who are attempting to put military pressure on us while raving about our nonexistent nuclear development.

Saying that the North's nuclear deveopment is the greatest threat to peace in this area, the U.S. imperialist bellicose warmongers have recently clamored for reinforcement of the U.S. military forces deployed in South Korea. In response to this, the South Korean puppets also made a fuss over the nuclear threat and babbled that the agreement cannot be implemented unless the nuclear issue is resolved, and they are actively taking part in the U.S. imperialists' war maneuver.

However, the reality is that the nuclear threat is coming from the South to the North, not the reverse. The joint nuclear air strike exercise which the U.S. imperialists staged in South Korea is aimed at the northern half of the Republic as an operational target. The fact that construction of an underground nuclear weapons depot in South Korea was exposed irrefutably shows that the nuclear threat stems from South Korea, where the U.S. imperialist aggression forces are deployed.

When the U.S. Congress pressed RisCassi, commander of the U.S. aggression forces in South Korea, for an answer about whether nuclear weapons exist in South Korea, he neither affirmed nor denied it. This is comarable to the situation where one who has committed a misdeed remains silent, at a loss for an answer.

With their nuclear weapons hidden in South Korea, the U.S. imperialists inspired the puppets to make a commotion over nonexistent nuclear development and conducted large-scale war exercises while holding successive war conferences with them for a northward invasion. These acts can be committed only on the eve of war and constitute an open military action against us.

It is a silly fantasy and an attempt to frighten our people with military pressure. The U.S. policy of aggression, a policy of strength, is a legacy of the cold war era which is workable nowhere today. The United States should respect the North-South agreement and joint declaration on denuclearization which the North and the South jointly pledged before the nation. The United States should also immediately stop making military commotions under the pretext of our nonexistent nuclear development and withdraw its aggression forces, including its troops, from South Korea without delay.

The U.S. imperialists should clearly know that the reckless war maneuvers will only accelerate their own destruction.

Pentagon's Defense Guidelines Criticized

SK1403034092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] According to the 9 March edition of THE NEW YORK TIMES, the U.S. Department of Defense has drawn up a so-called classified defense guideline. This guideline enumerates plans of the U.S. bellicose class to dominate the world as military policemen after the end of the cold war.

It was learned that this classified guideline, which is being circulated among the Department of Defense's highest level, foresees domination of the world by one superpower, which means the United States, and envisages spending $1.2 trillion for the large-scale U.S. Armed Forces for the next five years with a view to ensuring the United States' supremacy.

According to this newspaper, the document of the U.S. Department of Defense, focusing on the concept of domination of the world by a single superpower—the United States—even rejects the role of (?others) in resolving international problems.

The document, touching on the so-called restraint of U.S. nuclear weapons, also reveals that the United States will not withdraw its nuclear-offensive military aircraft deployed in overseas bases.

In particular, the newspaper points out that in this document, the U.S. bellicose class propagandized that the United States, making a target list of a series of countries including the DPRK, would use its military strength against these countries, if necessary.

All this clearly shows that although the United States pays lip service to the end of the cold war, relaxation of tensions and so forth, it is more frenziedly sharpening the sword of aggression behind the scenes, and that the U.S. imperialists' aggressive nature has not changed at all.

U.S.-ROK Military Exercises on 11 Mar Reported

SK1303060192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Air Force and Navy commands Wednesday staged a large-scale joint aerial exercise in the sky above South Korea to increase the capacity of surprise strike at targets in the strategic depths of the northern half of Korea "in case of emergency", according to military sources.

Formations of fighter bombers and assault planes from bases overseas and some 350 war planes of the U.S. Air Force present in South Korea and the puppet air force of South Korea were mobilized in this provocative military exercise staged in the air above Wonju, Chungju and Woeyon Islet for hours under the direct command of an "E-3A" early warning plane based in Kadena, Okinawa.

Meanwhile, the U.S. imperialists sent transport planes "C-130" and "C-141" carrying quantities of combat equipment from Pacific bases to the operational zone of South Korea.

And puppet motorized troops deployed in Kapyong and Pochon areas of Kyonggi Province staged an attack exercise against the North to break through the Military Demarcation Line, advancing in combat order up to the line of Pangmok-ri, Paju County, with the support of tanks, guns and flying groups.

In a separate development, tens of puppet armed helicopters launched an air war exercise to penetrate into the depth of our side along the Military Demarcation Line from the western sector to eastern sector of the front.

More than 600 war planes were mobilized in the military exercises that day.

Press Delegation Meets PRC's Jiang Zemin

SK1403000992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, on 13 March received at Zhongnanhai in Beijing a NODONG SINMUN delegation, which is visiting China and led by Hyon Chung-kuk, editor-in-chief.

At the meeting, the delegation head conveyed warm greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to Comrades Jiang Zemin, Deng Xiaoping, Yang Shangkun, and Li Peng.

Expressing deep thanks for this, Comrade Jiang Zemin asked the head of the delegation to convey warm greetings from him and Comrades Deng Xiaoping, Yang Shangkun, and Li Peng to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Noting that this year is the 80th birthday of Comrade President Kim Il-song, Comrade Jiang Zemin wished him a joyful birthday and good health and long life.

The meeting was held in a warm and amicable atmosphere.

Gao Di, director of China's RENMIN RIBAO; Shao Huaze, its editor- in-chief; and Chu Chang-chun, our country's ambassador to China, were on hand.

PRC's Peng Chong Meets Deputy Foreign Minister

SK1503050792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Peng Chong, vice chairman of the Chinese National People's Congress Standing Committee, met with our country's Foreign Ministry goodwill delegation led by Cha Pong-chu, vice foreign minister, in Beijing on 11 March.

Chu Chang-chun, DPRK ambassador to China, attended the meeting.

Talks were held in a friendly atmosphere.

Kim Il-song Fetes Veteran Fighters

SK1303235292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1531 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 13 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today met with veteran anti-Japanese fighters who contributed to the accomplishment of the historic cause of national liberation by participating in the glorious anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and are still devotedly working for the strengthening of the party, the state and the army and the accomplishment of our revolutionary cause.

President Kim Il-song highly estimated the brilliant exploits performed by the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters who fought a heroic fight in the sacred anti-Japanese war to accomplish the cause of national liberation under the revolutionary banner of chuche and have been faithfully working all their lives for the party and the revolution, the country and the people.

Recalling with deep emotion veteran anti-Japanese fighters with whom he has overcome countless risks and difficulties, President Kim Il-song said we could liberate the country despite manifold difficulties and have built and strengthened our ever-victorious socialist system centred on the masses in this land thanks to the veteran fighters, the first generation of the revolution, who established the tradition of singlehearted unity based on noble revolutionary comradeship.

The Korean revolution pioneered in the thick forests of Mt. Paektu is advancing victoriously, carried forward brilliantly by our party, he noted, adding that it is worthy of praise that the veteran anti-Japanese fighters are devotedly working to accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche, faithfully upholding the leadership of the party.

The veteran anti-Japanese fighters were full of the firm determination to uphold the leadership of our party with loyalty and accelerate the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche to the last moment of their lives with the same faith with which they fought in the thick forests of Mt. Paektu with President Kim Il-song as the centre of unity and leadership.

President Kim Il-song arranged a luncheon for the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters.

South Korea

Reaction to U.S. Sanctions Against Libya

Seoul Awaits UN Resolution

SK1403010992 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 13 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 13 March that the government decided to withhold accepting the U.S. demand for joining its economic sanctions against Libya until a resolution is adopted by the UN Security Council.

That day, a high-ranking government official stated that "the United States demanded that the ROK join in its economic sanctions against Libya, including overall withdrawal of ROK construction companies from Libya." He stressed, however, that "as for the United States, it has almost no economic relations with Libya, but the total contracts for construction projects undertaken by the ROK companies amounted to as much as $19.5 billion last year. Approximately $5.7 billion is outstanding on construction contracts undertaken by the ROK businesses. Thus, our country is in a difficult position to fully accept the U.S. demand."

A relevant Foreign Ministry official noted that the envisioned sanctions by the UN Security Council against Libya are likely to include the suspension of passenger flights to Libya, an embargo of military sales, a prohibition of dispatching military advisers, the reduction of diplomatic staff members in the country, and an embargo of aircraft parts. He also said that the ROK is not reviewing the withdrawal of workers but that "since our nation is a UN member nation, we will follow the resolution adopted by the UN Security Council."

Plans To Evacuate Workers in Libya

SK1603095992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0938 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea may have to evacuate its construction workers in Libya by land and sea through Tunisia when U.N. sanctions take effect, officials here said Monday.

Emergency evacuation plans were discussed in an inter-ministerial meeting chaired by Assistant Foreign Minister Ho Sung, according to the officials.

The U.N. Security Council (UNSC) is likely to adopt a resolution against Libya around March 20 including banning of civilian flight services to the country, trade embargo on military supplies and reduction of staff members at diplomatic missions in Libya.

"The government is not considering evacuating South Korean workers in Libya at present," one official said after the meeting.

"But the Korean air flight services connecting Bahrain, Jeddah and Tripoli will stop when the resolution passes the UNSC, making it difficult to bring the workers out of Libya," he said.

"We are considering operating special charter flights to Tunisia and transport the workers from there by land and sea," he said.

About 5,000 Korean and 11,000 workers from third countries such as Thailand, Bangladesh and the Philippines are now employed by South Korean contractors in Libya.

About 250 South Korea and 1,000 third-country workers are brought in and out of Libya every week on work shifts, according to business sources.

CIA's Gates Assesses DPRK Nuclear Program

SK1403120792 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 14 Mar 92 p 2

[From the "Fluoroscope" column by Washington correspondent Chong Yon-chu: "Central Intelligence Agency Director's Ulterior Motive"]

[Text] Different people give different predictions on when North Korea will be able to develop nuclear weapons. Among them, U.S. CIA Director Robert Gates gave the earliest date, thus causing a sense of crisis. He said: "North Korea will be able to build nuclear weapons in several months or in two years." The CIA director's "prediction" is noteworthy considering the gravity of his post.

As to when North Korea will be able to develop nuclear weapons, Director Gates says different things at different times. In his prepared testimony at a hearing of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs on 25 February, he said about North Korea's nuclear development:

"Even after it accumulates a sufficient amount of plutonium, it must go through several more stages—that will take several months or 'several years'—before building nuclear weapons."

In answering a question by Representative Solarz at that hearing, he cited a much earlier date, however.

[Solarz] How long do you think it will take for North Korea to produce fissionable nuclear material? And how long do you think it will take for North Korea to build nuclear weapons?

[Gates] We think it will take several months, or two years at the longest.

[Solarz] Do you mean it will take several months for North Korea to produce fissionable nuclear material?

[Gates] I mean it will take that long to build nuclear weapons.

[Solarz] Do you mean it will take several months for North Korea to build nuclear weapons?

[Gates] Yes.

Director Gates made a different prediction on 12 March on when North Korea will be able to build nuclear weapons. Speaking at an international academic seminar under the auspices of the Nixon Library, Director Gates said:

"After accumulating a sufficient amount of plutonium, North Korea must go through several more stages—that will take several months to two years—before manufacturing core devices for building nuclear weapons."

This is similar to what he said at the 25 February testimony. This time, he said 'two years,' instead of 'several years,' however, and used harder expressions. In a sense, this is a mixture of the prepared testimony and his answer to Representative Solarz's question at the 25 February hearing.

Whatever the case may be, in less than a month, the U.S. CIA director gave different answers when he "assessed" North Korea's ability to build and develop nuclear. What atmosphere in the U.S. Administration caused this?

U.S. Demands Lead to Eased Shipping Plans

SK1503053792 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD SUPPLEMENT in English 15 Mar 92 pp 2, 3

[Text] Korea plans to ease shipping frictions with foreign countries this year by flexibly reacting to their demands based on the principle of "reciprocity."

One of the biggest pending issues is the U.S. request that U.S. shipping firms be allowed to deliver their cargoes to the final inland destinations by trucks.

At present, U.S. shipping companies are permitted to do trucking service only from the port of Pusan to within the whole area of the city.

The issue will top the agenda at the annual Korea-U.S. shipping consultative meeting slated for June in Washington, the Korea Maritime and Port Administration (KMPA) said.

To resolve conflicts with the European Community and Japan, Korea plans to hold similar consultative sessions with these countries this year.

The Korea-E.C. meeting is scheduled for July in Seoul and the Korea-Japan session for April in Tokyo and again for October in Seoul, KMPA officials said.

KMPA officials, however, did not confirm whether Korea will make major concessions at the coming consulative meetings, only stressing the need for complying with the principle of reciprocity.

A KMPA official said that Korea should refrain from unfair treatment of foreign firms if it does not want to receive similar treatment.

He said that Korea needs to act commensurate with its status in the global shipping market.

Korean shipping industry shipped 263 million tons of export and import cargoes in 1991 to earn $4 billion, bringing it to the brink of joining the rank of the world's top 10 shipping powers.

Korea's shipping industry was one of a few bright sports in Korean economy.

While Korea registered a record deficit of about $10 billion in trade in 1991, its shipping industry recorded the fourth consecutive year of surplus in the year.

KMPA officials predicted that the Korean shipping industry will repeat the feat this year barring unexpected drastic international market changes.

Fast-growing trade with what KMPA officials call "northern states," such as China and the former Soviet Union, will become a new blessing to the Korean shipping industry.

The two-way trade with China is widely predicted to top $10 billion this year, nearly double from 1991.

But the trade cargo between the two countries was handled by two-thirds country-registered firms because of lack of formal diplomatic relationship.

But the two-thirds country-registered firms are Korea-China joint ventures.

The ships operate between two Korean ports, Pusan and Inchon, and four Chinese ports, Shanghai, Tsingtao, Tairen and Tienjin, flying a third country flag.

Korea hopes to set up governmental-level dialogue channels with China in the shipping area this year to eliminate unfair treatment of Korean cargoes at Chinese ports, KMPA said.

"The Korea-China shipping relation needs to be restructured in light of fast-growing two-way trade volume," an KMPA official said.

China has reportedly shunned formal contracts with Korea in the shipping area, citing lack of full diplomatic ties.

The two-way trade volume in 1991 totaled 83,000 TEU, up 56,000 from the previous year, according to KMPA.

The two countries opened regular car-ferry service in 1990 between Inchon and Weihai and Tienjin.

Korea plans to expand shipping cooperation projects with Russia, KMPA said.

Korea is considering signing shipping cooperation accord with Russia this year.

The Korean Government will take initiatives after the situation in Russia stabilizes, the officials said.

Korea has been holding extened negotiations with the former Soviet Union to open a regular containership service between Pusan and the eastern Russian port of Vostochniy.

Before dissolution of the former Soviet Union, the two countries had reached basic agreement on opening of direct container shipping service.

The negotiation has stalled since the Soviet Union broke apart.

Korea plans to expand practical cooperation with other Asian countries such as Taiwan and ASEAN countries this year.

A Korea-Taiwan shipping consultative session is slated for April in Seoul and shipping officials of the two countries are scheduled to exchange visits in May, KMPA said.

In the first half of this year, the authority said, Korea hopes to hold similar meetings with other Asian nations.

Korea plans to seek membership this year in shipping-related international agencies such as the ILO [International Labor Organization], ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific] UNCTAD [UN Conference on Trade and Development] OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development] and GATT [General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs], KMPA said.

Membership in these organizations will help boost Korea's international status but also help it to more actively launch shipping diplomacy, the officials said.

To spur inter-Korea exchanges, KMPA said, South Korea plans to open three direct passenger shipping routes this year.

The three routes projected by the KMPA are Inchon-Namp (178 miles), Inchon-Haiju (71 miles) and Tonghae-Wonsan (148 miles).

According to KMPA plan, both sides will put a ship in each of the three routes. If the North permits, the plan said, the South can provide all of the needed ships.

On the cargo shipping service, the authority plan said, both sides will open to each other all of their ports which are now open to outside.

KMPA said that the South plans to discuss this matter through the South-North Korea joint economic exchange and cooperation committee.

The KMPA plan said that the shipping service between the two sides will be expanded as the inter-Korea exchanges grow in coming years.

The authority is studying steps to boost the international competitiveness of Korean shipping industry ahead of planned full opening of its shipping market to foreign firms.

As part of this step, KMPA plans to lift its decades-old, often controversial restriction on business boundaries of shipping firms.

Under present regulations, ocean-going ships are banned from domestic and short-international route shipping business. The short international route here refers to the route between Korea and Japan and Southeast Asian countries.

KMPA plans to issue new ocean-going shipping business licenses in 1993 and issues ocean-going ships new licenses to do business in short international routes, too.

KMPA will take steps to prevent anticipated overheated competition among Korean shipping firms in the wake of the abolition of business boundaries.

The authority also plans to abolish the special cargo license system in another effort to prepare Korean shipping industry for the full opening of the domestic shipping market.

Special cargo here refers to cargo which requires special treatment such as LNG [liquefied natural gas] and LPG [liquefied petroleum gas].

The Korea ocean-going shipping industry recorded its highest growth in years during 1991.

Total turnover grew about 20 percent to 3,350 billion won in 1991 from the previous year's 2,800 billion won.

Net profit jumped to 30 billion won from 13 billion won in 1990 but down from 45 billion in 1988 and 42 billion won in 1989.

But whether the Korean shipping industry will continue fast growth this year totally depends on the international environment.

Prospects for this year do not seen bright, however. A rather pessimistic outlook prevails among the Korean shipping industry.

Such a gloomy outlook is primarily spawned by the prediction that the U.S. economy will remain in recession contrary to earlier expectations, and the Japanese economy will slump and Germany's interest rates will remain high.

Reports from the International Monetary Fund [IMF] backs the prediction.

IMF predicted that the global economy will grow 2.2 percent this year, up from 0.9 percent in 1990 but down 3.3 percent in 1989.

But global trade volume will record a 0.4 percent increase in 1992, down from 7.1 percent rise in 1989, 3.9 percent gain in 1990 and 2.5 percent increase in 1991.

Talks Held on Joint Nuclear Control Commission

Premier Signs Inspection Accord

SK1603102492 Seoul YONHAP in English 1011 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean Prime Minister Chong Won-sik signed Monday an inter-Korean agreement on formation and operation of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) that will oversee South-North nuclear inspection.

The agreement goes into effect Thursday when the two sides exchange the document signed by South and North Korean prime ministers.

The two Koreas initialed the agreement last Saturday to hold the first JNCC meeting on March 19 and work out inspection procedures within two months.

Officials here hope to hold the first inter-Korean inspection by mid-June.

Agreement Detailed

SK1403082292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0748 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 14 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korea on Saturday initialed an agreement making possible the first inter-Korean nuclear inspection by June 10 at the earliest.

The agreement on formation and operation of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) says the commission will hold its first meeting March 19. South and North Korea will "try to settle" details to inspection within two months after the first meeting.

The first inspection will be within 20 days after the details are settled, according to the agreement.

The accord was initialed at the seventh inter-Korean working-level nuclear negotiations at the truce village of Panmunjom.

"According to the agreed schedule, the inspection guidelines will be determined by May 20, and the nuclear inspection can start around June 10," South Korean Vice Unification Minister Yim Tong-won said in a briefing.

South and North Korea adopted a four-point joint statement at the Panmunjom contact.

Article 1 says the two sides will exchange the agreement on JNCC formation next Tuesday and Thursday after it is signed by prime ministers. The agreement goes into effect from the day the two prime ministers sign it.

Article 2 states the two sides will notify each other of the delegates to the JNCC on Wednesday.

Article 3 says the JNCC will convene its first meeting on March 19 at the truce village of Panmunjom.

Article 4 states the two sides will "jointly try to adopt the necessary document for verifying nuclear-free status of the Korean peninsula," meaning procedures to the mutual inspection, "within approximately two-months time" after the first JNCC meeting. It adds that the two sides "understands that the inspection will begin within 20 days" after the document is adopted.

Article 4 temporarily settles the linchpin of inter-Korean negotiations. South Korea has been pushing the North to set specific dates on by when the procedures should be settled.

South Korean delegates demanded that the inspection guidelines be set within one month after the first JNCC meeting and that the inspection begin 10 days after the meeting.

This would have pegged down the dates of the first mutual inspection.

These demands were dropped in exchange for North Korean concessions, according to Yim.

North Korea initially insisted the two sides adopt a subsidiary agreement pledging South and North Korea will not develop or receive nuclear weapons or own plutonium reprocessing facilities.

It also insisted on getting international guarantee to keep the Korean peninsula nuclear free.

North Korea took back these demands, Yim said.

Asked why the language is toned down to "will try to" and "understand," Yim said "we had to settle at this point."

South and North Korea signed a joint declaration for a nuclear-free Korean peninsula on Dec. 31 last year. The declaration says the JNCC should be formed by March 18.

"If we did not commit to forming the JNCC by the deadline, this part of the declaration would have been broken, inviting serious consequences," the vice unification minister said.

South Korea accepted North Korea's demands that the inspection guidelines be settled "within approximately two-months time" instead of "within two months," Yim said.

The agreement on formation and operation of the JNCC says the commission will be membered by seven delegates from each side, one or two of them military officials.

The JNCC will exchange information on nuclear-related facilities and materials, discuss formation of the inspection team, and sites subject to inter-Korean inspection.

The commission will meet every two months, alternating between the Southern and Northern side of the truce village, the agreement says.

"Our aim is to begin the mutual inspection within the first half of this year," Yim said.

Pre-IAEA Inspection Urged

SK1603010092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0039 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 16 (YONHAP)—South Korea will demand that South and North Korea inspect each other's nuclear and military facilities before the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) investigates the North's nuclear capability, a highly placed government source said Monday.

The source said the South's demand would be conveyed to the North at the first meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC), at the truce village of Panmunjom on Thursday [19 March].

"The two sides have agreed to adopt a document necessary to verify a nuclear-free Korean peninsula within two months after the formation of the JNCC and to conduct an inspection within 20 days of adoption. We cannot rule out the possibility of the North's delaying implementation of the agreement, however," the source said.

This was the reason the government would strongly call for mutual inspection before international inspection, he said.

North Korea, through its delegate to the IAEA governors meeting in Vienna last month, has said that it will ratify and effectuate the nuclear safeguards agreement that it signed with the IAEA when the Supreme People's Assembly convenes early next month and that it will accept international inspection around June.

South Korea would open to inspection any facilities that the North requested, either private or military, he said.

"As far as the scope of the inspection and the number of facilities are concerned, we believe the same number of facilities should be investigated to the same degree on each side strictly on the basis of reciprocity," the source said.

The source said the government's position would be laid out in the form of a draft of inspection rules and would be delivered to North Korea at the JNCC meeting.

The government has decided to name Kong No-myong, dean of the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Securty, as the Southern-side chairman of the JNCC, and Pan Ki-mun, aide to the foreign minister, as vice chairman.

The JNCC will have seven members each from South and North Korea. Other Southern members will include officials from the presidential office, the prime minister's office, and the Defense, and Science and Technology Ministries.

Embassy To Verify Report on DPRK Detonator

SK1603064492 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 16 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] In connection with a report by the Russian Federation weekly magazine "ARGUMENTY I FAKTY" that North Korea has already completed the development of a nuclear detonator device, on 15 March the government instructed its embassy in the Russian Federation to find out whether the story is true or not.

No Tae-u Denies Plan To Revise Constitution

SK1603055392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0513 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 16 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Monday neither the government nor the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] would first attempt to rewrite the basic charter.

In an interview with the Masan-based daily KYONGNAM SINMUN, No brushed away an opposition claim that the government might seek to revise the constitution after the general elections.

"As I promised during the new year's news conference, and I now affirm, no constitutional revision will be made during my tenure and the issue can neither become an object of controversy nor be exploited politically," he told the newspaper.

In campaign speeches, some opposition candidates have charged that the government and DLP will try to revise the constitution if they lose the upcoming elections.

No Interviewed on Post-Election Reshuffling

SK1403093592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0223 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 14 (YONHAP)—There may be a cabinet reshuffle after the March 24 general elections, its scale determined by the election results, the KUNGMIN ILBO quoted President No Tae-u as saying in an interview in its Saturday editions.

He reiterated that his Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] will select its presidential candidate at a party convention, the vernacular daily said. No gave the exclusive interview to mark the newspaper's 1,000th issue.

A partial cabinet reshuffle was possible, depending on the results of the general elections, he said.

"The possibility should be studied after the general elections, after observing public and government opinions," No said, suggesting that the election results will determine the scale of the reshuffle.

He said he was confident his party would achieve victory in the elections.

"The people know well there is no force that can replace the DLP in the future task of national reunification and making an advanced nation," he said.

People wanted continued national pursuit of unification and prosperity with stability, and he believed they would give the mandate to the DLP, the president said.

On the presidential nomination, No said his party's leadership had already agreed on competition at the party convention.

"There will not be any conflicts," No said.

No's single five-year term ends in February next year and he is ineligible for re-election.

Inter-Korean cooperation and exchange would be possible only after resolving the suspicions surrounding North Korea's nuclear development, the president said.

If North Korea continued to postpone nuclear inspection, it would face strong international opposition and difficulty in inter-Korean relations, No warned.

He said South Korea would never hurry for an inter-Korean summit, which would come at an appropriate time.

No denied taking any action against the Hyundai Group because its founder has formed a political party.

"There is a misconception about the relationship between the government and conglomerates," No said. "The sale of conglomerate-owned land not used for business purposes applied to all businesses, not only to Hyundai and to its founder, Chong Chu-yong."

The measures were not linked to Chong's entry into politics, he said.

No's Relatives Accused of Campaign Abuses

SK1503033992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] The Democratic Party [DP] yesterday urged the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] to revoke the candidacies of Pak Chol-on and Kim Pok-tong, both of whom are related to President No Tae-u, for allegedly distributing gifts to non-party members in violation of election laws.

Kim Kyong-chae, DP campaign headquarters spokesman, also demanded the dismissal of Reps. Kang Song-mo and Yi Chung-mu as DLP National Assembly candidates for similar reasons.

Rep. Pak Chol-on, former sports-youth minister and one of No's top assistants, was accused of providing food and beverages to participants in a rally held in a Taegu district Thursday [12 March].

His alleged violation was referred to the prosecution by a local office of the Central Election Management Committee, an independent government agency, the previous day.

Kim Pok-tong, who underwent interrogation following a local election committee's suit for providing meals to non-DLP members in a rally in another Taegu district, was cleared of the charge by the prosecution.

Yet opposition rivals suspect that his relationship to the president might have caused law enforcement authorities to clear him.

The DP claimed that Reps. Kang Song-mo and Yi Chung-mu, both owners of medium-sized business firms, used their corporate influence in campaigning.

Kang is the chief executive officer of Rinnai Korea Co., a leading manufacturer of gas ranges. Yi Chung-mu owns the Taegu Department Store.

DP Urges No Tae-u Disclosure on 'Bribe Scandal'

SK1503070492 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 14 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] Kim Kyong-chae, spokesman of the Democratic Party's election headquarters, issued a statement on 13 March on the remarks made by Chong Chu-yong, Unification National Party leader, that he had given a bribe for land-reclamation construction at the bay of Kwangyang-man.

In the statement, the spokesman urged President No Tae-u not to trifle with the people by making poor excuses, such as donating to poor people or something, and to clearly disclose the truth about the bribe scandal.

Independent Sues DLP Assemblyman for Bribery

SK1503051492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Pusan—So Chong-pom, 37, an independent candidate in the Assembly election, sued Rep. Chong Chae-mun, 56, of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], Friday [13 March] for allegedly violating the National Assembly Election Law.

So and Rep. Chong are running in the Assembly elections in the Pusanjin A electoral district.

So alleged in the suit that Chong Hae-yong, 76, father of Rep. Chong, gave him 10 million won in cash at the Shilla Hotel at Puchon-tong Friday morning, saying that he would give him a total 200 million won if he abandoned his candidacy.

The independent candidate, director of the Taesong Institute, also brought a lawsuit against the senior Chong with the regional election management office on similar charges.

So claimed that he turned in the 10 million won to the regional election management office together with the complaint.

The senior Chong once served as a National Assemblyman, elected in this southern port city.

Joint Rallies Precede General Elections

Ruling Party Promises Stability

SK1403020492 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Mar 92 pp 2, 3

[By staff reporter Kim Chong-chan]

[Text] Ruling party candidates stressed yesterday that their party should win a comfortable majority in the coming parliamentary elections to preserve political stability.

Opposition candidates, on the other hand, attacked the government's economic failures, especially runaway inflation, the mounting trade deficit and the high cost of homes.

Sim Sang-chun, a government party candidate running in the Kurye-Koksong constituency in Chollanam province, contended that his Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] is the "only party capable of continuing democratic reforms and boosting economic growth."

"We, Koreans, cannot afford to discontinue reforms nor abandon hopes for economic development," Sim said at a joint campaign rally at a primary school in Kurye, a small city.

He called for the elimination of bitter regional antagonism in the rally which attracted 1,000 people. "Now is the time to root out the divisive provincialism, open our doors wide and join forces to help develop this Cholla region."

In the previous elections in 1988, President No Tae-u's now-defunct Democratic Justice Party [DJP] failed to produce a single lawmaker in the Cholla region, the stronghold of opposition leader Kim Tae-chung. The DLP was created in early 1990 out of a merger of the DJP and two opposition parties led by Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil.

Hwang Ui-song, vying in the same electoral district on the main opposition Democratic Party's [DP] ticket, took issue with the economic hardship plaguing the nation. Kim Tae-chung co-leads the DP with Yi Ki-taek. Kim is still immensely popular in the Cholla region.

Hwang asserted that the growing national trade deficit resulted from Korean businesses' diminishing competitiveness in international markets, which was triggered by the government's faulty economic policy and inadequate investment in high technology.

The opposition candidate contended that South Korea is facing a "total crisis," saying that the nation has seen a surge in various types of irregularities and crimes in recent years.

Hwang labeled the three-party merger as a "plot to perpetuate their rule."

Kim Mun-il, a former national tennis player who is joining the fray as a Unification National Party [UNP] contender, said he decided to enter politics to make his hometown a place for better living.

Hyundai Business Group founder Chong Chu-yong inaugurated the UNP early last month with a call for "clean politics and wide-ranging economic reforms."

Kim said Hyundai can actively help develop the Cholla region.

Candidates' joint speech rallies also were held in five other areas yesterday.

Candidates can hold three rounds of joint rallies in one electoral district during the official campaign period which ends on the eve of the March 24 elections.

Today and tomorrow, 348 joint campaign rallies will be held across the country.

In Seoul, rallies will take place in a all 44 electoral districts this weekend.

The parties continued to hold individual campaigns while taking part in joint campaign rallies.

Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the DLP, stumping in his home ground of South Kyongsang Province, extolled voters that the party cannot maintain stable government without scoring a decisive electoral victory in the Kyongsang provinces.

Speaking in Sanchong, Hamyang and other South Kyongsang provincial cities, Kim said the DLP and the government hope to continue their work for economic stability and welfare of the people at the time when the nation is making a great stride toward greater democracy.

Kim promised voters that his party and the government will come up with measures to insure welfare of low-income workers, farmers, the handicapped and elderly people.

The DLP will also provide support for those who are unable to work and extend low interest loans for the poor and tuition for high school students from low-income families, in a addition to establishing five job training centers for the handicapped, Kim said.

Kim Tae-chung attended rallies in Suwon, Pyongtaek and other cities in Southern Kyonggi Province, attacking what he termed complete government failure in its economic policies.

"The Democratic Liberal Party, in a nutshell, is the party of economic failure," Kim declared. "And the nation will undoubtedly go bankrupt if we leave our economy in the hands of this party. [no end quotation mark as published]

Aiming his remarks at farmers, Kim accused the DLP and the government of deceiving farmers by claiming that the country will never open its market for rice and other foreign farm products while, all along, they are making farmers destitute.

Yi Ki-taek, the other DP leader, visited Ulsan, Kyongju and two other cities in South Kyongsang Province, delivering speeches in support of DP candidates in the areas and vowing to stop the DLP from victimizing workers in favor of the rich.

The UNP leader and former chairman of the Hyundai Group, Chong Chu-yong, was in Sangju, Andong, Ulchin and several other cities in North Kyongsang Province, charging the DLP and the government with failure in their economic policies.

DLP Pledges 'Clean Election'

SK1503091092 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 15 Mar 92 p 2

[From the "Guest Room" column: "Democratic Liberal Party Pays Lip Service to Fair Election"]

[Text] The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] repeatedly pledged a clean election. A DLP directive to its parliamentary candidates gave instructions to refrain from personal attacks on candidates from other parties at a joint stumping rally. The DLP recently sent out a guideline on slandering and defaming the Democratic Party [DP] and Unification National Party [UNP] to all of its local chapters across the country, however, thus bringing on the people's criticism.

The "guideline for the joint stumping rally" prepared by the DLP called on its candidates to attack opposition candidates with such vulgarities as describing the DP as the "Tae-chung [first name of party co-chairman Kim Tae-chung] party," and as "Kim Tae-chung Corporation," and its co-chairman Yi Ki-taek as "a little associate proprietress" and as an "adhesive plaster for one-time use."

With regard to measures to cope with the UNP, the guideline stressed that "since adverse reaction may be touched off if DLP candidates try to deal with the UNP on a nationwide scale, they should deal with it directly only in areas where they are evenly-matched with UNP candidates, such as Seoul, Kangwon Province, and Ulsan." This guideline also includes a directive to describe the UNP as the "Hyundai party," "business group party" and "Chong Chu-yong [name of party representative] party."

Political circles made sarcastic remarks about the DLP, stating that "the DLP is taking the initiative in creating

an atmosphere of disorderly elections, including the release of an internal directive on black, slanderous propaganda, while talking loudly about a fair, clean, and quiet election at any opportunity."

'War of Words' Continues

SK1503064692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Mar 92 p 2

[From "Press Pocket" column: "Verbal Sparring"]

[Text] The war of words between political candidates heated up over the weekend across the nation.

In Kangnam-A constituency of Seoul, dubbed the center of national politics, the three top runners engaged in verbal attacks before thousands of voters at a rally at the Nonhyon Primary school grounds.

Defending lawmaker Hwang Pyong-tae of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] concentrated on denouncing the new opposition Unification National Party [UNP] led by Hyundai founder Chong Chu-yong.

Describing the Hyundai Group as the "Frankenstein of modern times attempting to monopolize power," Hwang claimed that the DLP stabilized politics through the merger of three parties (two year ago) by breaking the political structure of "small ruling party-big opposition camp."

Yi Chung-chae of the opposition Democratic Party [DP] led by Kim Tae-chung argued that the DLP has been crippled by the intra-party struggle over its presidential nomination.

Yi, a former lawmaker and economic expert, claimed that the inconsistent economic policies of the No administration have driven the national economy into ruins.

Kim Tong-kil from the UNP said, "we hoist high the flag of new politics in order to correct the current reality of shaken politics, the ailing economy and destroyed public peace."

The outspoken former professor, who has emerged as a dark horse, asked the voters, who, he said, have the highest political sense and educational background, to "correct the corrupt election climate and to lead Korea into a new political era."

In the Chungrang-A constituency, Rep. Yi Sang-su of the DP and TV actor Yi Sun-chae of the DLP renewed their rivalry again after four years. Yi, a practicing attorney, defeated Yi by a narrow margin in the previous election.

Yi of the DP argued that his rival's TV appearances as the "father of Taebal" in a weekend serial TV drama, "Whatever Love Is?" is against election law provisions.

"Despite my failure four years ago, I will see to it that my campaign pledges are kept," he said.

Rallies Termed 'Watershed'

SK1403071292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0235 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 14 (YONHAP)—A total of 348 joint campaign rallies were scheduled to be held throughout the country over the weekend, in what political parties believed would be a watershed for many candidates running for the March 24 general elections.

"The candidates will be turning the corner this weekend before entering the final stretch and the general contour will emerge early next week, showing who is leading the pack in most electoral districts," an analyst said.

The political parties, greeted with voter indifference so far in their individual campaigns, were expected to mobilize their supporters at the joint rallies to help demonstrate the popularity of their candidates.

Authorities said they were bracing for some clashes between campaigns of rival parties at joint rallies in certain areas.

Independent candidates, who are not allowed to take part in joint rallies, are expected to hold their own campaign rallies, possibly from Sunday [March 15], since the Constitution Court ruled Friday that independent candidates should have the same opportunity to campaign as party candidates.

As a result, independents could make and distribute two more kinds of printed matter in addition to four small-size campaign leaflets.

Independent candidates may also hold one rally in an electoral district. An independent candidate, however, may give only one speech at a rally, whereas four representatives of a party are allowed to speak at rally held by parties.

The Central Election Management Committee (CEMC) said it would accept, from Saturday, applications from independents for permission to hold rallies and to distribute additional campaign leaflets.

Joint party campaign rallies were scheduled to be held both Saturday and Sunday in Seoul, Inchon and Pusan and on a smaller scale in other areas, CEMC officials said.

Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), stumping in Kimhae, Yangsan, Ulsan and in other South Kyongsang Province areas, promised voters Saturday that, in order to improve the tap water supply, the government will spend 3.5 trillion won by 1996 on sewage sysems and other anti-pollution facilities.

In addition to improving the quality of water from the Nakdong and three other rivers, the government will also increase the water supply to 21.75 million tons, or to 85 percent from the current 78 percent, Kim said.

Kim also promised that the government and the ruling party will increase the supply of liquefied gas to Ulsan and the early construction of facilities for desulfurization of gasoline so that Ulsan can become a pollution-free city.

Kim Chong-pil, a DLP co-chairman, meanwhile, toured Chonan, Taejon and Taedok in South Chungchong Province. He blamed "opposition leaders" for the present economic difficulties, which he said resulted from their indiscriminate support of labor in industrial disputes.

He appealed for votes for the ruling party "for the country's economic and social stability," which he said could be realized only through political stability.

In Kyonggi Province, Pak Tae-chun, another DLP co-chairman, urged on party functionaries in Pyongtaek, saying the election trend in Seoul and its satellite cities will have an enormous influence over the rest of the country.

Kim Tae-chung, a co-leader of the main opposition Democratic Party (DP), toured Sungnam and Pundang, on the outskirts of Seoul, Saturday in addition to Taejon and Kongju in South Chungchong Province.

He promised voters that if the opposition party wins a controlling majority in the National Assembly, it will help reduce taxes to 3 to 30 percent from the current 5 to 50 percent for all workers.

It is quite natural, Kim declared, to give a tax reduction for salaried men and women because they are the ones who pay most taxes.

Kim said his party will also abolish or practically abolish taxes on farm land. The DP will also abolish various taxes on land, including registration, acquisition and inheritance taxes.

Yi Ki-taek, another DP co-leader, visited Taejon and urged party supporters and voters to show their stern judgment on the "immoral merger of three parties" that formed the current ruling party.

Clashes With Students Reported

SK1503045492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Kwangju—University students clashed with youths, believed to be members of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], at a joint stumping session here yesterday, leaving 10 students injured.

The incident took place at 2:40 p.m. when about 20 students supporting Kim Chol-hi, an independent candidate for the forthcoming Assembly elections, chanted anti-DLP slogans during a speech by Cha Sang-nok, a ruling party candidate.

About 30 youths, believed to be ruling party members, assaulted the students and then fled the scene.

Campaigns Continue in Provinces

SK1603084992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0624 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 16 (YONHAP)—Party leaders, sensing rising enthusiasm among voters for the March 24 general elections, began the last full week of campaigning Monday with outdoor rallies for their chosen candidates in their home ground.

In a marked change from the voter indifference that was evident in past campaigns, some 1.3 million eligible voters turned out to hear candidates and party leaders appeal for their votes in 348 rallies and campaign gatherings around the country on Saturday and Sunday.

While candidates and party functionaries assessed the results of their weekend efforts to woo the undecided voters, party leaders continued to campaign in provincial electoral districts, mostly of their home grounds, where they felt their candidates needed party support.

Kim Yong-sam, chief executive of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), stumped all electoral districts in Pusan to appeal the people's support for the ruling party for continuation of the current "stable economic and social policies."

In order to carry out works began by the DLP and the government for the unification of the country and revive the nation's economy, Kim said, the DLP has to win a majority in the 14th National Assembly.

Hinting that he would personally need the support of his home province again when the country holds the presidential election later in the year, Kim asked voters to send all DLP candidates to Seoul so that he could work with them for the country.

Aiming his remarks at woman voters, Kim also declared that the ruling party will work for equal rights for women and improvement of women's status in society by revising and reforming family, family registration and inheritance laws and by toughening the law against rape and violence.

Touring electoral districts in Inchon, Kim Chong-pil, a co-chairman of the DLP, urged the voters to ignore all those minor political parties that, he predicted, would disappear or be absorbed by larger parties following the elections. Gone, then, will be their campaign promises and platforms, he said.

Pak Tae-chun, the other DLP co-chairman, visited cities on the east coast in Kangwon Province, criticizing the National Unification Party (NUP) led by the founder of the Hyundai Group, Chong Chu-yong.

Pak took a swipe at Chong, saying it was tragic for him to play a role in politics when the Hyundai Group was known for labor disputes and real estate speculation.

The Democratic Party (DP), convinced that many undecided voters in the Seoul metropolitan area are now turning

to the main opposition party, has decided to hold a big rally at Yoido, in Seoul, next Saturday afternoon.

DP co-leaders Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek will also campaign in Seoul from next Saturday through Monday to wrap up their last stage of campaigns, party officials said.

In the meantime, Kim Tae-chung was stumping in Yongkwang, South Cholla Province, the DP's strong-hold, Monday before moving to the provincial capital of Kwangju Thursday and Friday. Yi will campaign in Taegu and other North Kyongsang provincial cities and Kyonggi and South Chungchong Province.

Kim and Yi have also scheduled a joint press conference in Seoul on Wednesday to review the campaign and brief the press on party strategy for the rest of the week leading into election day, according to DP sources.

Among the most hotly contested areas was in an electoral district in Taegu in which former Rep. Chong Ho-yong is running against DLP candidate Mun Hi-kap.

Some 35,000 voters attended Chong's rallies Sunday and heard the general-turned-politician criticizing the government's failure in political and economic policies. Chong, who is running as an independent after returning from two years of self-imposed exile in the United States, urged voters to show their disapproval of the DLP and the government by electing him.

In a Kangnam District in Seoul, another area that is being watched closely by parties and analysts, DP candidate Hong Sa-tuk accused the DLP of trying to "perpetuate the hegemony of the so-called TK (Taegu-Kyongsang) power clique" and "to continue to alienate the Cholla Provinces."

'News Analysis' on Regionalism

SK1503015592 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Mar 92 p 2

["News Analysis" by staff reporter Kang Song-chol]

[Text] In November 1987, Kwangju citizens treated Kim Yong-sam, then an opposition presidential candidate, as if he were an enemy commander at his campaign rally in the city.

He had to flee to safety from a hail of rocks thrown at him by thousands of loyal followers of rival opposition leader Kim Tae-chung.

About three weeks later Kim Yong-sam ran into a similar reception in a rally in Yosu, the southernmost port city of South Cholla Province. Scores of people were injured in the two incidents.

There are no longer such ugly scenes. Nevertheless, Kim, now executive chairman of the powerful ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), appears to focus on his safe home turf of Pusan and South Kyongsang Province as he tours the southeastern region in support of his party's parliamentary candidates.

Since the inauguration of the present Sixth Republic in early 1988, the political landscape has undergone a major transformation. Kim joined hands with his one-time political foe, President No Tae-u, creating the current party in power, DLP.

But regional antagonism between the Kyongsang and Cholla regions still remains a key political factor.

Political analysts agree that the intense regionalism will weigh heavily on the March 24 parliamentary elections as it did four years ago.

"I do not think that people have changed much in their political consciousness," says Kim Kwang-ung, a political scientist at Seoul National University.

He predicts that localism will play a major role in mapping out the political landscape for a considerable time to come.

Political leaders must be aware of the stark reality. They used to clamor for removal of bitter feelings among regions. They pay largely lip service, however. Their aim is to exploit them for the coming legislative elections. Ruling party officials are openly talking about the prospect of sweeping all the parliamentary seats in southeastern parts of the country. The region consists of Kim Yong-sam's home turf as well as President No's hometown of Taegu and neighboring North Kyongsang Province.

Kim Tae-chung, who co-leads the main opposition Democratic Party with Yi Ki-taek, appears confident of a landslide victory in Kwangju and the Cholla provinces. He may be sure of the victory, for in the April 1988 elections his party carried all the 37 parliamentary seats alloted for the southwestern region.

The newly created Unification National Party (UNP) appears to be emulating the example of the two larger parties. It speaks of the mountainous Kangwon Province as its political stronghold. It does so only because the province is the native place of its business tycoon-turned-politican Chong Chu-yong. Chong leads the UNP which was launched early last month.

Some critics accuse the UNP of further complicating the problem of regional animosity.

Yi Chong-hui, a professor of political science at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, is one of them.

"It is not a healthy sign that the UNP attempts to secure a regional basis," Yi says. Rather, he says, the party should try to focus on mustering support from specific segments of society.

Prof. Kim of Seoul National University has a different view on this. He says UNP's strategy is apparently based on the premise that every political party should have a power base of support, whether it is regional or otherwise.

He predicts, however, that Chong's party is unlikely to emerge as strong as it hopes in Kangwon Province. He believes that the party is likely to garner votes from throughout the country.

Big-name politicians like Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung appear to regard the coming parliamentary elections as a weather vane to the more important presidential election expected in late December.

The two likely contenders for presidency are well aware that their political clouts come in large part from their popularity on their home turfs. So they are busy consolidating their traditional power bases through the current campaign rallies.

When he visits Pusan and South Kyongsang Province, Kim Yong-sam appeals for an all-out voters' support there for him to succeed in his bid to become the next president.

"The mountain top is just ahead of us," Kim said in a recent rally in Pusan, using a metaphor of mountain-climbing. He has long led an alpinist club of politicians.

Kim draws large crowds whenever he campaigns in the regions.

Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung, meantime, has been trying to attack the "TK"-clan that refers to those from Taegu and North Kyongsang Province, including President No.

By emphasizing that the clan members "monopolize" key government, military and other public posts, the opposition leader is laboring to generate anti-TK feelings in other regions of the country.

Kim Chong-pil, a co-chairman of the ruling DLP, is also exerting all-out efforts to consolidate his power base in the Chungchong provinces in the central part of the country.

Touring the provinces in support of his followers, Kim hints that he may run for the next presidency. He often stresses that the Chungchong provinces will have to play a more important role in domestic politics.

Amid general predictions that regionalism will continue to prevail, some analysts say they can see signs that may herald possible changes.

They point to the fairly good prospect of the election of an independent, Yi Mun-ok, in a Kwangju district.

Formerly an official of the Board of Audit and Inspection, Yi is known for his leakage to the press of board documents regarding the possession of real estate by big conglomerates (chaebol).

Kim Tae-chung's popularity in Kwangju may have been diminished. Last week Chong Chu-yong, head of the pro-business Unification National Party, made a rare scathing attack on the life-time opposition leader, but suffered no criticism from Kwangju citizens.

Kim Chong-pil's followers in Taejon and the Chungchong provinces reportedly are fighting uphill battles.

At present, however, such possible signs of change may not be enough to influence the overall results of the coming elections.

"The nation has a very low rate of illiteracy, but when it comes to 'illiteracy in democracy' the rate is still very high," Prof. Kim of Seoul National University says.

He says he can find no immediate steps to resolve the problem of regionalism.

Russia Advised Against Korean Economic Model

SK1403031792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0155 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, March 13 (YONHAP)—South Korean opposition leader Kim Tae-chung, in an interview with IZVESTIYA, has advised Russia not to follow his nation's authoritarian pattern in its push for economic development.

The former communist government newspaper, in its Thursday [13 March] editions, quoted Kim as saying that the Korean economic model was based on repression of workers and low wages, which had given Korea an edge in international competitiveness over advanced countries.

Korea's authoritarian system had caused serious socio-economic problems, such as a deepening gap between rich and poor and a conspicuous imbalance in regional development, he said.

The nation was no longer one of the four Asian "dragons" but a "small fish," because authoritarianism had blocked economic development, so Russia should create its own model based on a democratic, free market system in full consideration of the negative aspects of the Korean model, Kim was quoted as saying.

Russia, especially in academic and governmental circles, has expressed a keen interest in Korean-style autocratic development in an effort to create a new economic system to replace the centrally planned system.

Indian Foreign Minister Signs Aviation Accord

SK1603022892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0142 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 16 (YONHAP)—South Korea and India signed an aviation agreement Monday that allows Korean planes to fly to Bombay and New Delhi and Indian aircraft to fly to Seoul and Pusan, stopping in Hong Kong and Bangkok, respectively.

The agreement also provides Korea with rights to the Middle East and southern Europe, and gives India the same rights to Japan and the United States.

The pact was signed in Seoul by Foreign Ministers Yi Sang-ok of Korea and Madhavsinh Solanki of India, who flew into Seoul Sunday for a four-day visit.

Prior to the signing, the two held talks on upgrading bilateral economic ties and on enhancing cooperation at the United Nations and other international forums.

Yi asked for India's support for international efforts to stop North Korea's development of nuclear weapons, saying such a development would pose a security threat not only to the Korean peninsula but all Asia.

Solanki briefed Yi on the new economic reform policy pursued by his government and expressed hope for positive participation of Korean firms in economic projects in India.

Burma

Minister Dismisses U.S. Criticism on Narcotics

BK1503043092 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Mar 92 p A3

[Text] Burmese Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw yesterday dismissed a narcotics report on Burma by the United States as baseless, saying Rangoon's programmes on poppy cultivation and drug suppression were "winning."

He also faulted the US estimation of opium production from Burma, saying the number was cooked up to justify US interests and by someone without a true knowledge of the country's poppy growing terrain. However, he could not produce the regime's own version to back up his claim.

Ohn Gyaw made the counter statements after attending the first ministerial meeting on cooperation on drugs control among Burma, Laos and Thailand. He along with Home and Religious Affairs Minister Lt Gen Phone Myint led the Burmese delegation to the forum, while Laotion Foeign Minister Phoun Sipaseut headed the Laotian team.

The report this year by the US State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics Matters said Burma remained the world's largest source of opium and heroin, and estimated that the 1990-91 opium production would reach 2,350 tonnes, an increase from 2,250 tonnes for the 1989-90 period.

"The report made by (the US) State Department is wrong... Every year we have the sense that they have set some figures in order to justify their efforts, that the higher figure will have to be a few tonnes this way or that way... There is a deliberate figure set up by certain body without having seen what is going on in the area," he said.

"In addition to that, the United States in the report of the State Department has accused us of not doing enough. There are many countries that are not doing enough, because whenever you want to do something to somebody, one has to think about his own," he added.

Ohn Gyaw could not provide Rangoon's figure to counter the US report and accused the US of never reducing its estimates despite Burma's efforts to eradicate poppy plantations over the last few years.

He claimed that the government's unilateral border development programme to combat drugs, which was introduced in early 1989 by the Burmese military junta, was a success and that the people were benefiting from the programme and had received food and medical assistance.

Ohn Gyaw rejected as an "allegation" the US report which mentioned that the ceasefire deals between the Burmese junta and some former insurgent groups resulted in Rangoon tacitly condoning the expansion of drug trafficking and that some "lower-level" Burmese officials and military personnel frequently acquiesce or participate in the illicit drug trade.

Border Agreement Signed With Thailand 12 Mar

BK1303094792 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] A ceremony to exchange the instruments of ratification of the memorandum of understanding between the Government of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand relating to the fixed boundary on the Mai Sai-Mae Ruak River sector was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok, Thailand at 1000 on 12 March.

The instruments of ratification were exchanged between the ambassador of the Union of Myanmar, U Nyunt Swe and the minister of foreign affairs of Thailand, Mr. Asa Sarasin, on behalf of their respective governments.

The Mae Sai-Mae Ruak River sector is 58 kilometers long. The two countries agreed to demarcate and mark the fixed boundary along the deep channel in January 1987 after repeated consultations and survey work. The two countries successfully cooperated and worked closely in marking the deep channel course, erecting boundary pillars, drafting and producing boundary maps, and drafting the memorandum on fixed border demarcation from 1987 to 1991.

The memorandum of understanding relating to the fixed boundary along the Mae Sai-Mae Ruak Rivers sector was signed in Yangon [Rangoon] on 18 June 1991 by the deputy foreign ministers of Myanmar and Thailand on behalf of their respective governments. Then it was ratified by the Myanmar and Thai Governments in accordance with the prevailing legal practices of the respective countries, and finally the instruments of ratification of the memorandum of understanding were duly exchanged today.

Therefore, the memorandum of understanding comes into force today. As a result, the boundary between Myanmar and Thailand has been fixed once and for all along the existing deep water channel of the Mae Sai-Mae Ruak River sector as surveyed and demarcated by the joint Myanmar-Thailand survey team.

Having successfully ratified the memorandum of understanding, the two countries will continue working closely together for mutual benefit through equitable untilization of water of the Mae Sai and Mau Ruak Rivers and for the maintenance and preservation of the present courses of the said rivers.

The successful cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand on the joint survey and demarcation of the Mae Sai-Mae Ruak Rivers sector is a significant contribution to the security and stability of the said common

boundary, as well as to the further strengthening of the existing friendly relations between Myanmar and Thailand.

300 Ethnic Shans Killed; 3,000 Injured by Army

BK1403035492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Mar 92 p 7

[Text] More than 300 ethnic Shans have been killed and over 3,000 injured since Burmese forces launched a campaign against Shan rebels and sympathisers in Shan state last November, according to a Shan human rights foundation.

The foundation, which was set up by the "Muang Tai Army" of notorious drug kingpin Khun Sa, claimed that Rangoon forces from the Northeastern Command had torched more than 15,000 houses in 543 villages in the districts of Lashio, Tang Yan, Mong Yai and Hsenwi in Shan state.

More than 90,000 Shan civilians were up rooted, many of them fleeing their homes for refuge elsewhere. Several are heading for the Thai border, the foundation claimed.

The Burmese Army took more than 6,000 head of cattle and robbed the Shans of opium and gold weighing over 850 baht, it said.

The foundation's claims could not be verified by other sources.

Muang Tai Army [MTA] spokesman Col Kheren Sai Jaiyen said in a long distance phone call yesterday that the Shans face problems similar to those facing Muslims in Arakan state.

He said that news from Shan state rarely reaches the outside world because the state is off-limits to reporters.

The only reports come from refugees, and are usually sketchy.

He said fighting had flared in several places in Shan state between the MTA and Burmese forces.

Troops Finally Capture KNU's Mountain Stronghold

BK1503150692 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] The KNU [Karen National Union] terrorist insurgents have been disrupting the peace and tranquillity of the region by various means and have been intimidating the people who want to live peacefully under the rule of law. The Defense Services, intending to totally crush the terrorist insurgents, has valiantly and systematically attacked the KNU strongholds in the southeast military command region and is meeeting with success in every battle.

Thus, under the guidance of the tactical command, Defense Services columns under the No. 66 Light Infantry Division began the systematic assault on Point 4044, known as Sleeping Dog Mountain alias (Htway Hpar Waycho) camp, on 9 March and because of valiant efforts captured the camp at 1115 on 14 March and counted 155 dead terrorist insurgents.

Altogether 68 assorted arms—eight RPGs, one Browning machine gun, one M-23 machine gun, four M-79 launchers, one two-inch mortar, 14 M-16 automatic rifles, 14 AK-14 assault rifles, five M-22 automatic rifles, one BA-63 automatic rifle, one BA-64 automatic rifle, one M-72 launcher, 17 M-62 launchers—75 assorted magazines, 168 RPG grenades, 25 (Inaka) grenades, 200 mines, 20,000 rounds of assorted ammunition, and 275 bunkers were captured.

In the battles, 19 Defense Services personnel laid down their lives for the country while 27 were wounded.

Similarly, our Defense Services columns are courageously making efforts to capture the other remaining KNU camps.

Pro-Democracy Forces Ready To Flee

BK1603000892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1841 GMT 15 Mar 92

[By Erskine McCullough]

[Excerpts] Bangkok, March 16 (AFP)—Burma's pro-democracy movement is preparing to flee its jungle headquarters at Manerplaw after Burmese troops captured the town's key defensive position over the weekend, well-informed sources told AFP late Sunday night.

The decision to evacuate was taken after Burmese soldiers on Saturday overran Sleeping Dog Mountain which overlooks the sprawling town of Manerplaw near the Thai border.

"We have had plans to evacuate prepared for some time. Now is the time to act," a source close to the pro-democracy leaders told AFP.

The Karens, who have been fighting Rangoon for more than 30 years for greater autonomy, suffered heavy losses during the battle for the mountain. The order to retreat was given after 60 were killed and 200 wounded, Karen sources said.

The Karens have joined with the parallel government made up of members of the National League for Democracy which swept elections in 1990 but which was forced to flee into the jungle after the junta refused to hand over power. [passage omitted]

The sprawling settlement only yards from the Thai border had become a symbol for the struggle for democracy in Burma.

Earlier this year Major General Khin Nyunt, head of the country's military intelligence, demanded the army took Manerplaw by March 27, Armed Forces Day.

"Khin Nyunt was determined to take Manerplaw come hell or high water. He turned it in to his personal crusade. It looks like he has got his way," one Western diplomat said.

Since the dry season campaign to take Manerplaw began in early January, the Karens have suffered devastating losses.

"There is no doubt the Burmese troops were determined to take it this year. The fighting has been much heavier than in recent years," one military expert said.

The situation became so serious that last month a special meeting was held between all the pro-democracy groups living in Manerplaw to work out an evacuation plan, according to sources at the meeting.

"But no matter whether the Rangoon troops move into Manerplaw or not it will not silence the pro-democracy government. We will never be defeated. Democracy will come to Burma. The junta will be overthrown," one NLD leader told AFP on Saturday.

"We have made contingency plans for the fall of Manerplaw. We may have lost a battle but we have not lost the war," he added.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Allegations of Rubber Dumping in U.S. Rejected

BK1303110592 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Malaysia is countering allegations that it is protecting its extruded rubber thread manufacturing industry and dumping these products in the United States. International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz said, however, Malaysia would compete in the U.S. market without the generalized system of preferences, GSP, because of the industry's tough position. She was speaking to reporters after receiving China's Machine-Building, and Electronics Industry minister, He Guangyuan, in Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia holds 77 percent of the total U.S. market for extruded rubber thread products.

Meanwhile, in Washington, President George Bush has announced the withdrawal of the duty-free treatment for vulcanized thread imported from Malaysia.

UMNO: U.S. Finding 'Excuses' To Raid Libya

BK1303143092 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Youth has described the recent United States action against Libya as a deliberate attempt to find excuses to launch a military attack against the country similar to the one in 1986. The secretary of the UMNO Youth International Bureau, Haji Mustapha Yaakob, said the latest attempt by the United States is to invite its allies Britain and France to use the United Nations to pressure Libya to hand over two of its citizens said to be responsible for the Pan Am air crash in Lockerbie, Scotland and four others over for the French UTA plane crash in Niger.

Burma's Policy, Muslim Rohingyas' Plight Viewed

BK1403094892 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Mar 92 p 8

[Editorial: "Strangers in Their Own Land"]

[Text] The rulers of Myanmar [Burma] have been afflicted with xenophobia for a long time, preferring that the country make-do and improvise with scarce resources and in seedy circumstances rather than risk infection by foreign ideas and influences. Now, their xenophobia has spread to encompass thousands of Muslim Rohingyas in the western State of Arakan. People who have lived in Myanmar for generations have suddenly been classified aliens. To encourage their leaving the country, soldiers have been torching homes, stealing property, raping women, killing hundreds and detaining thousands.

Myanmar has been denying the tales of atrocities, charging that they are fabrications of foreign enemies. Sounds like either xenophobic paranoia or a whitewashing of complicity. Is one to discount hundreds of graphic eyewitness accounts of pillage and slaughter and mass graves? What explains the hurried exodus in the past three months or so of up to 170,000 refugees fleeing into Bangladesh? Would people, under no compulsion, willingly give up home and field for life in refugee camps, subject to diseases and the charity of Bangladesh and international aid organisations?

There are also reports that Myanmar has put close to 100,000 troops in the border regions next to Bangladesh. If one is not to see this as the prelude to war with Bangladesh (and there is no discernible reason for such an event), then one must see this large force as being emplaced to prompt a fleeing of the remaining "aliens" and to ensure they do not return to their homes.

The world has seen another nation shutting out the outside and turning against its own people in a rampant fit of blood-letting. Cambodians still bear livid scars and memories of that ghastly dark time. One hopes the current situation in Myanmar is not a prelude to another grisly nightmare.

It is one thing to send in troops to take on hill-tribes who want separation and independence. It could be argued that a government has the right to suppress separatist movements by force of arms. However, in the case of the Rohingyas, Myanmar seems to be persecuting an ethnic, religious community without even bothering to justify the violence by saying that it had anything to do with the

Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (which does advocate armed insurancy to free Arakan).

Malaysia has chosen to maintain relations with Myanmar because it believes persuasion rather than isolation is a better course of action to influence events in the country. Myanmar has clearly shown that it is prepared to go its own course without the support of other countries (though relying heavily on Chinese military supplies for its current spate of campaigns), so international ostracism is no real threat. One hopes Malaysia's expressed concern over the reported persecution of the Rohingyas will influence the government in Yangon to re-consider its policies and practices. Myanmar may feel that when it comes to the crunch, it does not need friends, but no regime can be maintained indefinitely by fear and killings. Sooner or later there will be an accounting. Professing to be Buddhists, the generals should realise that.

It is alienating its own peoples. It is alienating its neighbours. Are compassion and peace such alien concepts to the generals? What is the point of presiding over a depopulated land?

Ghafar Urges Caution

BK1503095492 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Malaysia will be careful in making any decision or stand on the Rohingya refugees to not be accused of interfering in the affairs of another country. Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba says Malaysia must first obtain detailed information from its High Commission in Bangladesh on the problem of the Rohingyas before making a decision. Pressures will be applied on Myanmar [Burma] to take them back if it is proven that the refugees are [word indistinct].

Mr. Ghafar was speaking to reporters in Melaka. He said Malaysia sympathizes with the Rohingyas not because they are Muslims, but because they are being oppressed. All they want to do is to return to their homeland. Although Malaysia has not taken any stand on the matter, it could still express its sadness that the Rohingyas are living under such inhuman condition. The deputy prime minister is confident that the matter will not affect Malaysia-Myanmar relations.

On the Spratlys, he said Malaysia hopes the problem could be settled peacefully without military action, which will undermine stability in the region. Asked about the press report on the possibility of the U.S. interference, he said the United States has the right to give its opinion on the matter. Mr. Ghafar pointed out that every nation could give its opinion and stand, but could not act as it liked to the extent that its action would bring about an unhealthy situation.

UN Military Advance Team Leaves for Cambodia

BK1503095092 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Forty-seven officers and men from the 1st Royal Ranger Regiment who make up the advance team of the Malaysian component of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, left for that country today. The team was led by Colonel Mohamed Arshad Mohamed Raji. He said the rangers would be deployed in Battambang, located 300 kilometers northwest of Phnom Penh, and about 100 kilometers from the Cambodia-Thailand border.

The advance party would prepare the ground work for the main force comprising the rest of the battalion, and would be scheduled to leave by air from Johor Baru on the 25th of this month.

Minister Urges Peaceful Settlement of Spratlys

BK1603040092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0332 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 16 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia is confident that the Spratly Islands' sovereignty issue can be resolved peacefully through diplomatic channels, Defence Minister Najib Abdul Razak said Sunday.

"We don't want any interference from any quarters on this," he said.

Najib was commenting on a statement by the U.S. ambassador to the Philippines, Frank Wisner, that the United States would oppose any use of force to take over the Spratley Islands.

Wisner also proposed that ASEAN use political means to urge claimant countries not to engage in an armed confrontation over the islands.

America will oppose any armed action and will intervene if the armed conflicts threaten the security of the region, especially its allies," Wisner said in a television interview in Manila.

The Chinese parliament in late February proclaimed a new law to stake its claim to the Spratlys and two other groups of islands and warned that it would use military means to defend them.

Najib said Malaysia's stand on the issue was very clear and wanted to avoid an armed conflict.

"As far as possible, the parties should try to solve the matter peacefully," he said.

The Spratlys, believed to be rich in natural gas and oil, are claimed by China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Malaysia has stationed security forces on three islands and atolls while China was reported to have dispatched troops to the area.

The Philippines announced recently that it would build air and naval stations on several islands.

Ministry Official on Promoting Exports to China

BK1503102092 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Mar 92 p 16

[By Laura Lee]

[Text] Malaysian businessmen have been urged to hold specialised trade fairs in order to promote export of local products to the Chinese market.

While Chinese businessmen have been organising regular trade exhibitions here, parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Mr. S.S. Subramaniam, said there was a lack of corresponding effort from Malaysians.

Local businessmen have been participating in the Canton and Dalian trade fairs, but these are buying fares from which they source [as published] for Chinese merchandise for the Malaysian market.

"Specialised trade fairs to promote Malaysian products in the Chinese market have not been organized as a promotional tool by our businessmen in China."

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the five-day China New Products Exhibition in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, he said trade between Malaysia and China for the first 11 months of last year totalled $3.66 billion compared with $2.87 billion during the corresponding period in 1990.

He called on both countries to continue undertaking concerted efforts through participating in and visiting local fairs.

They should exchange trade missions and visits to establish direct contacts and appoint local agents to promote their products.

There are 15 Malaysia-Chinese joint venture projects with capital investments of more than $1.28 billion operating in China related to the manufacturing and service industry.

He said the increased economic activities, namely joint venture manufacturing projects in China, had created greater demand for raw materials, intermediate goods, and component parts as inputs for the manufacturing of finished products.

Malaysian entrepreneurs should therefore step up efforts to enter the Chinese market.

In Malaysia, he said 11 joint venture projects with Chinese equity totalling $420 million had been approved since 1987 involving the manufacture of rubber cut threads, examination gloves, footwear, freight containers, iron ore concentrates, hydraulic cylinders, hydraulic valves and pumps.

The exhibition which ends on Monday [16 Mar] is a showcase for 1,300 Chinese products ranging from growth granules, silk apparel, textiles, art and craft items, and traditional medicines.

Mexican Trade Official Urges Joint Ventures

BK1303104792 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Mar 92 p 14

[Text] Mexican businessmen have identified four areas of common interest to serve as the starting point for enhancing business ties and forming joint ventures with their Malaysian counterparts.

The Mexican Trade and Industry Ministry's Foreign Trade Undersecretary Pedro Noyola, said yesterday they were the manufacturing, hotel, palm oil, and rubber industries.

"We are also looking into other ventures in the construction material, electrical engineering, petrochemical, plastic manufacturing and the oil and gas fields," he told reporters after a meeting with the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Noyola said entrepreneurs of the two countries should look into forming strategic alliances to take advantage of the healthy business climate in Malaysia and Mexico.

"We should be working hand in hand to ensure that we fully utilise the opportunities and enjoy the benefits of growth together."

He cited development of palm oil refineries, manufacturing of rubber products and the development of industrial parks as ideal joint ventures.

For instance, Malaysia can provide the raw materials, such as rubber and palm oil, to Mexico for processing into manufactured products for export to other countries.

In the case of development of industrial parks, they could be established in either country.

Noyola said the situation is promising especially with the formation of the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA).

Mexico could be used as a springboard to enter the North American and South American markets.

Lawyers Accused of Disregarding Judicial System

BK1403140692 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir says the move by the Bar Council to retain its resolution on not recognizing the lord president, Tun Abdul Hamid Omar, is tantamount to not recognizing the country's judicial system as a whole. Questioning the Bar Council's stand, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said it wants an independent judiciary in this country but [words indistinct] every

judicial appointment will have to be decided by it. He adds that the Bar Council has all along been talking about an independent judiciary but the action of the council itself is not democratic. He said this to reporters when asked to comment on the move by the Bar Council to retain its no-confidence resolution on Tun Abdul Hamid adopted in 1988. The resolution was retained at the Bar Council's annual general meeting in Kuala Lumpur today.

Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said the Bar Council's attitude seems to show that every judicial appointment would have to have its prior permission and consent. He points out that if the Bar Council's permission was needed for the appointment of a judge, then all laws, including the federal Constitution would have to be amended. This will lead to two parties implementing the legal system in this country—the council and the judiciary.

Earlier, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir launched the International Polo Championship 1992 organized by the Royal Malaysian Polo Association and unveiled its logo.

Singapore

Khmer Rouge Offensive Called 'Deplorable'

BK1403114092 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Singapore has expressed concern about the cease-fire violations by the Khmer Rouge. A Foreign Ministry spokesman says the Khmer Rouge's behavior is deplorable. Singapore condemns such cynical and irresponsible actions which can only prolong the agony of the Cambodian people. A continued military offensive would jeopardize the deployment of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia and threaten the Cambodian peace settlement.

Singapore also called upon the Khmer Rouge to demonstrate their commitment to peace by immediately halting its military offensive.

Cambodia

First U.S. MIA Search Proves Unsuccessful

BK1303132092 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1058 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 13—A U.S. military excavation team left Cambodia Thursday after their two-week dig failed to unearth the remains of five American, Japanese and French newsmen missing since 1970, AFP [Agence France Press] quoted officials as saying.

"They dug with shovels, buckets and finally a backhoe," Lieutenant Commander Ken Patterson, a spokesman for the U.S. Pacific Command, said of the 20-member team prepared to fly out to Bangkok. "They found nothing."

The search for the CBS and NBC television crews in Kandal Province was the first attempt by the United States to recover the remains of those who went Missing in Action (MIA) in Cambodia, which has been sealed off since 1975 by four years of Khmer Rouge rule and a dozen years of war.

The Phnom Penh Government has opened up the areas it controls following the October Cambodian peace treaty, even allowing U.S. Blackhawk helicopters to fly here for the first time since the war to help the search.

The five newsmen were captured on May 31, 1970. Testimony collected by CBS, NBC and U.S. military investigators indicated that they had been executed and buried in a dry canal bed at Phum Kandaol, 54 kilometers (34 miles) south of here, but the dig was unsuccessful. In addition to American Welles Hangen, the newsmen were French cameraman Roger Colne and Japanese soundman Yoshihiko Waku of NBC, and the CBS team of Kojiro Sakai and Tomoharu Ishii of Japan.

FUNCINPEC Official Meets Solomon in Phnom Penh

BK1303093392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 12 Mar 92

[Text] Richard Solomon, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Asia and Pacific Affairs, has said that His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk is the sole symbol for Cambodian national reconstruction and that the United States will be very happy if democracy and freedom really prevail in Cambodia because the United States wants to see Cambodia being free from the influence of Indochina.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon said this during his meeting with Prince Norodom Sirivuth, who is in charge of the foreign affairs of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party, when he visited the residence of FUNCINPEC Party Chairman Prince Norodom Ranariddh in Phnom Penh.

Mr. Solomon said that the United States was very happy to see all Cambodian factions returned to Cambodia in order to settle their problems through peaceful means. He added that HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk was the sole symbol of national reconciliation.

Mr. Richard Solomon said the United States hoped that peace would certainly prevail in Cambodia and the Cambodian people would be free to express their voice in a free and fair election to be held under the strict supervision of the United Nations.

In his reply to Mr. Solomon, Prince Norodom Sirivuth noted that the presence of the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] was a very important factor to enable the Cambodian people to regain their freedom, adding that without the U.S. support and assistance, the process of peace would not have reached this point.

Concerning the alliance between the FUNCINPEC and the Cambodian People's Party, the prince said that this alliance was presently a matter of friendship. But in the future when the election is held, the FUNCINPEC would stand in the election as a single party.

In conclusion, the prince expressed profound thanks to Mr. Richard Solomon and the United States in particular for helping to seek measures for promoting peace in Cambodia.

Earlier, Mr. Richard Solomon said after his meeting with HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, and high-ranking UN officials in Phnom Penh that lack of cooperation on the part of the Khmer Rouge group in the UN-sponsored process to seek peace for Cambodia has caused great concern.

The UN officials asked the Khmer Rouge group last month about the incident in which a UN helicopter was shot at from the ground while it was flying over the zones of three factions, namely the Khmer Rouge, FUNCINPEC, and Phnom Penh.

Mr. Richard Solomon also said that there was an urgent need to seek funds for the UN peacekeeping operation in Cambodia.

Tie Banh, U.S. Envoy View Peace Situation

BK1503080692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] On 12 March at the Military Liaison Department of the Defense Ministry, His Excellency [H.E.] Charles Twining, U.S. special envoy, paid a courtesy call on H.E. General Tie Banh, Standing Committee member of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, defense minister, and member of the Supreme National Council, in order to seek information on work related to the peace process in Cambodia.

During the meeting, H.E. General Tie Banh informed the guest of the military, political, and security situation and especially implementation of the peace agreement in Cambodia.

Answering several questions raised by the guest, H.E. General Tie Banh said: The 23 October 1991 peace agreement was in line with the Cambodian people's desire for peace, thus the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] correctly implemented it. Moreover, the Cambodian People's Armed Forces maintained their restraint in not opening fire at the other side; [words indistinct] along the border areas mobilized their forces to provide security for the people in localities. On the contrary, the Pol Pot group has continued to violate the Paris peace agreement by stealthily launching activities, shelling bases of the SOC forces, and robbing the people, thus creating difficulties obstructing implementation of the Paris agreement and delaying the peace process in Cambodia.

Sihanouk Chairs 16 Mar SNC Meeting in Phnom Penh

BK1603052592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 16 Mar 92

["Report on the meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council"]

[Text] At 0900 on the morning of 16 March at the Khemarin Pavilion in the Royal Palace a meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] was solemnly held under the lofty chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of the State of Cambodia and SNC chairman.

Taking part in this meeting were their excellencies Im Chhunlim, Ieng Muli, Hun Sen, Hor Namhong, Dit Munti, Sin Sen, Son Sann, Son Sen, and Tie Banh. Also present were His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general and chief of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]; General John Sanderson, UNTAC high-ranking military official; H.E. Ataul Karim, chief of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia; Gen. Loridon, UNTAC high-ranking military official; their excellencies representatives of the five major powers; ambassadors; representatives of various countries accredited to Cambodia; and many other leading officials.

Sihanouk Message to Refugees Reported

BK1403142792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Message from His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council, to the refugees soon to be repatriated from camps in Thailand; date not given—recorded]

[Text] I, Samdech Euv [Prince Father], Samdech Ta [Prince Grandfather], Norodom Sihanouk, would like to make this address to all beloved children and compatriots who are currently staying in refugee camps in the Kingdom of Thailand.

Beloved children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren:

I think of you very much, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. I, your father and grandfather, am very glad to hear that all children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will be able to return to our adored motherland in successive contingents to lead a normal life, with freedom, in our national society.

I am honored and very happy to learn that there will be a reception to be held under my chairmanship in Sisophon [Banteay Meanchay Province] on Monday, 30

March 1992, to welcome for the first time the first contingent of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren refugees who are willing to return (?home).

I am very happy to have come to see the places in this Sereisaophoan to meet and welcome all children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren when you arrive at the centers for welcoming all repatriated children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

After staying in the above centers for a short period of time, all children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will be given the rights and freedoms to choose your (?domicile), such as any city, province, commune, or village where you want to live and earn your living.

Six centers have been set up throughout our country for welcoming you, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, refugees who volunteered to be repatriated. You will be staying in one of those six centers only temporarily for a few days.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], International Red Cross [IRC], Joint Committee of the Cambodian Red Cross under my chairmanship, the Government of the State of Cambodia [SOC], international agencies for distributing aid to Cambodia and Cambodian people, and UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] will jointly give aid, security, and other assistance possible to all my beloved children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to provide means for all of you who have volunteered to return home to lead a normal life properly and honorably in our national society. These organizations, agencies, and authorities will provide you with all necessary items for beginning your new life, such as giving farm lands for those of you who choose to earn your living in the agricultural field; providing any vocational training in line with whichever kind of occupation you want to take up; giving education to children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and protecting your rights and freedoms in line with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and all the points in the peace agreement signed on 23 October 1991 in Paris, capital of the French Republic.

I would like to ask all children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who are currently living in refugee camps in the Kingdom of Thailand to please listen to and very strictly follow the advice and order of the UNHCR, IRC, and the competent authorities of the most generous and highly respected Kingdom of Thailand. [words indistinct] in small and big groups orderly and successively. I would like to call on all children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to wait patiently. Do not make a hasty trip, disorderly, back to Cambodia without waiting for the orderly repatriation which has been correctly planned through a thorough survey.

If you, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, do not listen to the instruction of the UNHCR and the appropriate authorities of the Kingdom of Thailand and return to Cambodia in disorder, you might face the danger of mines or insecurity, and might not get proper assistance.

I am confident that for your own interests, all of you, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will certainly help to ease the work of your samdech euv, samdech ta, and the other supporters.

I would like to ask all of you, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to accept my deepest love for you.

At the same time, I, Samdech Euv, Samdech Ta, Norodom Sihanouk would like to express warm salutations to all children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who previously stayed in the Cambodian motherland but now have become displaced persons fleeing from your own home—that is, refugees in your own country—or who have to stay and earn livings together with the former refugees who will soon be repatriated from camps in Thailand. All of you will also get aid, assistance, and other means from the UNHCR and other international humanitarian aid agencies as all other refugees to be repatriated from camps in the Kingdom of Thailand. I would like to ask all of these children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to accept my deepest love as well.

As for my beloved children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who will be living and earning their living near the former refugees who have volunteered to return home from camps in Thailand, the UNHCR and other international agencies will also give you aid, assistance, and other means so that your standard of living will not be lower than those who have just returned to their homeland. I, Samdech Euv, Norodom Sihanouk, would like to ask these children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to accept my deepest love.

I, Samdech Euv, Samdech Ta, would like to extend best wishes to all beloved children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren (?and compatriots). May all of you enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha.

Thank you very much.

Norodom Sihanouk.

Views Repatriation With UNHCR

BK1303135292 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, had talks with the Cambodian Red Cross Committee and representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] at Khemarin Palace on the night of 11 March. He

expressed his deep thanks to the UNHCR for contributing and taking care of the preparations for the repatriation of Cambodian refugees from Thailand.

The meeting discussed and exchanged detailed views on the preparations for the repatriation to start at the beginning of April.

Members of Diplomatic Corps Visit Sihanouk

BK1303115792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Members of the diplomatic corps of friendly countries accredited to Cambodia called on His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], at the Khemarin Palace in the evening of 11 March. HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk expressed pleasure at and warm welcome to their excellencies the ambassadors and special envoys of all friendly countries who have come to Cambodia to foster the mutually beneficial relations of friendship and solidarity. The prince said that on behalf of the SNC and Cambodian people and in his own name, he deeply thanked all friendly countries for working hard to help speed up the implementation of the Paris accords on Cambodia with the aim of jointly rehabilitating and reconstructing Cambodia.

Meeting of Military Groups With UNAMIC Reported

BK1603090792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] At the ninth meeting of military officers from the four warring Cambodian parties on 9 March, French General Michel Loridon, commander of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC], put forward a firm proposal to military officers representing the four parties to immediately end the cease-fire violations because the time has come for implementing the Paris peace plan.

Loridon talked about the violations [words indistinct] in Kompong Thom and said that the cease-fire has not yet been properly observed. He called on the headquarters of each party to issue orders to their respective units to immediately stop clashes. Also at this meeting Loridon talked about the arrival in Cambodia on 15 March 1992 of Yasushi Akashi, chief of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], and General Sanderson. He also talked about the arrival of a battalion of Indonesian troops through Kompong Som and Kampot and the arrival of a Malaysian battalion through Poipet/Sisophon on 20 March.

The meeting proceeded in accordance with the agenda, including the implementation of the cease-fire, the firing on a UNAMIC helicopter on 26 February, marking minefields and demining training, deployment of liaison officers with the mixed working group in Pailin, Battambang, Siem Reap, and Kompong Thom, the inspection of troop cantonment areas, and the result of the working visit by UNAMIC to Vietnam and Laos.

Concerning the firing on the helicopter, General Kruoch Yoeum of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] side, affirmed that he has received a lot of information and knew the identity of the unit which did the firing. Only the role of the unit remains to be specified.

Speaking on the occasion, Colonel (Bivar) specified that UNAMIC has concluded the first phase of demining techniques in Siem Reap and plans to open further training at Banteay Meanrit and (Pou) village. Concerning the location of the cantonment areas, the Indian colonel proposed that the Khmer Rouge side has to let UNAMIC go and inspect its troop cantonment area without any more excuses because UNTAC will arrive shortly and preparations have to be made in advance.

At the end of the meeting, General Loridon specified the cooperative attitude of Vietnam and Laos saying that the Vietnamese side has agreed to the deployment of UNAMIC liason officers in Hanoi and at nine passes along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border and at two passes along the Cambodian-Lao border. As for the passes along the Cambodian-Thai border, UNAMIC will deploy officers at seven places.

The 10th meeting of the Mixed Military Group will be held on 20 March with the participation of Yasushi Akashi and General Sanderson.

UN Peacekeeping Operation Leaders Arrive

BK1503083692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0802 GMT 15 Mar 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, March 15 (AFP)—The United Nations' largest and costliest peacekeeping operation ever got off the ground Sunday seeking to bring peace to this country devastated by more than two decades of war.

The civilian and military chiefs of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi of Japan and Major General John Sanderson of Australia, arrived with their top aids and a pledge to end the civil war in Cambodia.

"My priority is obviously to establish peace in Cambodia with the cooperation of everybody," Akashi said as he disembarked from a United Nations C-160 transport plane.

"This will be the largest, most ambitious, most complicated and I'm afraid most expensive operation in the 47-year history of the United Nations," Akashi said.

UNTAC, plus refugee repatriation and the rehabilitation of the countryside, is expected to cost 2.8 billion dollars.

A battalion of Indonesians has already arrived, and an advance mission preparing the arrival of the Malaysian contingent due in 10 days was to arrive in the northwest Province of Battambang later Sunday.

Battalions from armies around the world and civilian experts in elections, administration, and finance will begin arriving in the next few weeks and be fully deployed by May 20, Akashi said.

"This is so the process of regrouping, cantonment and demobilization can begin by June," he said. [passage omitted]

One of the first problems faced by Akashi and Sanderson is fighting between Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh government troops that has continued in the central Province of Kompong Thom despite a nine-month-old cease-fire.

While Khmer Rouge leader Son Sen told AFP he had ordered a new cease-fire, he wanted the immediate deployment of 800 UNTAC troops in Kompong Thom.

However, Sanderson said he was "very cautious" about an immediate deployment.

"I need more information before I make that decision," the general said.

Akashi said another immediate priority is de-mining the roads from Thailand to begin the return of 370,000 Cambodians who fled 13 years of civil war.

Repatriation is due to begin March 30, but only 5,000 of them are to be brought home before the beginning of the rainy season in May, which will put off the operation until October.

Akashi, in his arrival statement, called on the four Cambodian factions to adhere to the peace agreement they signed to end the civil war in October.

"I shall also expect them... to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of all United Nations personnel," he said. [passage omitted]

Son Sen Denies Troops Fired at UN Staff

BK1603022692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Mar 92

["Message from His Excellency Son Sen, member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council and commander in chief of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, to His Excellency Ataul Karim, chief of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia;" dated 12 March—read by announcer]

[Text] 12th March 1992

To His Excellency [H.E.] Ataul Karim, chief of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC], Phnom Penh

Your Excellency: First of all, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to you.

1. After receiving the information directly from you in Pailin on 27 February 1992 on the firing on the UNAMIC helicopter in the Krayea-Ta Kream-(Dei Meas) area, I, like the entire Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], was very worried about this incident, which can affect the implementation of the Paris agreement on solving the Cambodian problem politically and comprehensively.

2. Immediately after receiving the information from you and immediately at the end of the first day of the visit to Pailin by His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], and his wife, on 27 February 1992, I sent messages to the headquarters of the Kompong Thom battlefield. At the same time, I also called a meeting of relevant cadres in the high command and set up a commission led by Lieutenant General (Samut) to immediately conduct an on-the-spot investigation.

On 3 March 1992, the investigation commission led by Lieutenant General (Samut) arrived on the Kompong Thom battlefield and immediately called a meeting of commanders in charge of the Kompong Thom battlefield, including Lt. Gen. (Pich Nhon), Major General (Lan Chem), Maj. Gen. (Lek Kruy), and so on. These three commanders immediately called commanders of Division 616 for questioning over the firing on the UNAMIC helicopter. The commanders of all the regiments attending this first meeting specified that their units did not fire on the UNAMIC helicopter.

Despite this, Lt. Gen. (Samut) and the command of the Kompong Thom battlefield ordered commanders of Division 616 to conduct further investigation among all the units under their command, particularly the units operating in the Krayea-Ta Kream-(Dei Meas) area. After a three-day investigation, these commanders came back and met with Lt. Gen. (Samut) again on 6 March. They affirmed that after their meticulous investigation, those questioned had heard only from foreign radios and by word of mouth from the people that a UNAMIC helicopter was fired on. Despite repeated questioning, the answers were to the effect that no cadres or combatants witnessed this event themselves and it was not known who did the firing because it was very confusing in that area, which is used by all sides. There is no way of telling parties or people apart. Furthermore, that area is one in which there is constant fighting.

On 9 March, Lt. Gen. (Samut) returned to the high command and reported to the commander in chief of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] that after meticulous investigation and repeated examination of reports by all units on the Kompong Thom battlefield,

the investigation commission of the NADK high command led by Lt. Gen. (Samut) and the command of the Kompong Thom battlefield clearly and finally concluded that the NADK did not fire on the UNAMIC helicopter.

Please accept my high regard

[Signed] Son Sen, SNC member and commander in chief of the NADK

Khieu Samphan Reaffirms Peace Accord Adherence

BK1503025892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 14 Mar 92

["Statement by Khieu Samphan, member of the Supreme National Council and chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, specifying who is not implementing the peace agreement," dated 13 March—read by announcer]

[Text] There have been successive statements implying and finding pretexts to accuse the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] of not implementing the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. Recently, more open accusations have been leveled at the PDK. This is another attempt to dupe national and international opinion, to change white to black and right to wrong, and to make those implementing the agreement look as though they are opposing it.

In fact, national and international opinion is well aware of who needs to implement the agreement and has made efforts to overcome obstacles and all kinds of difficulties to demand implementation. It is the entire Cambodian people and nation, including the PDK, who have been a major force contributing to the struggle for over the past 13 years to achieve an agreement to end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia politically and comprehensively.

Now that there is an agreement, there is no reason for the Cambodian people and nation, like the PDK, to not implement it. It is Vietnam and others who oppose an agreement to solve Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia comprehensively; who oppose national reconciliation among all Cambodians and among all four Cambodian parties' forces; and who are hindering implementation of this agreement. To find out who is implementing the agreement and who is not, the major essence of the agreement should be clearly recalled.

National and international opinion has clearly grasped that the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement to end Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia has the following three major points:

1. The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and the SNC are to cooperate in ensuring that all foreign forces are withdrawn from Cambodia and that these forces are prevented from returning to Cambodia;

2. UNTAC and the SNC are to cooperate in gathering, disarming, and dissolving at least 70 percent of all four Cambodian parties' Armed Forces;

3. The above two points should be implemented to enable UNTAC and the SNC to cooperate in organizing and controlling genuinely free and fair elections.

To this day, more than four months since the Paris accord was signed, the above major points have not yet been implemented, particularly the first and second points, because there is no control yet of Vietnamese aggressor forces. Vietnam continues to maintain aggressor forces and bring into Cambodia at will aggressor forces and weapons, and continues to carry out military activities against the Cambodian national resistance forces in the 14th dry season. These forces constantly cause insecurity in Phnom Penh and hinder the PDK from working normally within the SNC.

In a situation in which Vietnamese aggressor forces continue to attack the Cambodian national resistance forces, particularly Democratic Kampuchea's national resistance forces, the Cambodian nation and people, like the Democratic Kampuchea's forces, have full rights to defend themselves to cooperate in pushing for correct implementation of the agreement.

On this occasion, the PDK, like the Cambodian nation and people, would like to express profound thanks to the overwhelming majority of countries and people the world over for firmly adhering to wisdom and justice; clearly distinguishing victims and aggressors, and those who need to implement the agreement and those who oppose this; and continuing to support the Cambodian nation and people's cause and right to live with independence and peace, as well as the Cambodian nation and people's push for a correct implementation of the agreement, particularly in order to:

1. Ensure that all foreign forces are withdrawn from Cambodia and that these forces are prevented from moving in and out of Cambodia; and

2. Control the gathering and disarming of all four parties.

Once these two major points are implemented, other parts of the agreement will certainly be implemented without obstruction. The PDK—in the past, present, and future, as a signatory of the Paris agreement and as a member of the Cambodian SNC chaired by His Royal Highness and head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk—always firmly stands by the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement on Cambodia, which is an agreement comprehensively ending Vietnam's war of aggression.

[Dated] 13 March 1992

[Signed] Khieu Samphan, SNC member and PDK chairman

Khmer Rouge Rejects UN Call To End Fighting

BK1503070292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] UN officials have said in Phnom Penh that Khmer Rouge military leaders have rejected a UN call to

end the fighting. The call was made at an urgent meeting yesterday [14 March] that appealed for an end to violations of the Cambodian peace agreement because this agreement was signed in October 1991.

General Jean-Michel Loridon, currently commander of the forces of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia, said the Democratic Kampuchea National Army, or Khmer Rouge, do not accept the cease-fire. The meeting failed to achieve an immediate cease-fire. After the meeting with commanders of the four Cambodian parties' forces, General Michel Loridon said that if necessary, the United Nations can dispatch troops to that area. Loridon added that as commander of the UN forces in Cambodia, he can deploy UN troops in Kompong Thom Province. He has ordered these UN troops to be ready. However, Loridon said he is waiting for a decision by Yasushi Akashi, head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, UNTAC.

Akashi is due to arrive in Phnom Penh this Saturday. Akashi's arrival in Phnom Penh this month marks the official beginning of the largest peacekeeping operations in the history of the United Nations. UNTAC's first group arrived in Cambodia earlier this week and Loridon said he has made preparations to deploy these UN troops immediately in troubled areas if there is an order from Akashi and the new commander of UNTAC, General John Sanderson of Australia, who is due to arrive in Phnom Penh also today.

Reports from the United Nations say the Khmer Rouge have seized a number of villages, burned bridges, and taken control of many parts of strategic routes in Kompong Thom Province. Loridon said at least 10 Phnom Penh soldiers were killed and another 40 wounded in the fighting. The total number of casualties is not known.

In an interview after yesterday's meeting, Loridon specified that it was the Khmer Rouge side that fired on a UN helicopter wounding a high-ranking Australian officer last month when the aircraft was flying over a zone in Kompong Thom Province.

Control of SRV Troops, Demobilization Urged

BK1603035092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Article: "If Vietnam's Withdrawal From Cambodia Is Not Controlled, Vietnam's War of Aggression Cannot Be Ended"]

[Text] The Hanoi Vietnamese have used troops to invade and occupy Cambodia since 25 December [year not given]. On 23 October 1991, the Paris agreement was signed to comprehensively end Vietnam's war of aggression.

In the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement there is major point: the quadripartite Supreme National Council [SNC] and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] are to jointly control and ensure that all Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia and that these Vietnamese forces cannot return to Cambodia. Only when this point is settled can Cambodia have peace with independence. If this point is not yet settled, Vietnam's war of aggression continues because Vietnamese aggressor forces are still in Cambodia and more have been brought in at will from Vietnam in the east, along with weapons and ammunition.

The following is concrete evidence of the Vietnamese aggressor forces' presence in Cambodia:

1. There are over 10,000 Vietnamese troops deployed in the five military regions of the Phnom Penh side: 1,200 in the 1st Military Region in Kratie; 2,000 in the 2d Military Region in Kompong Cham; 2,000 in the 3d Military Region in Kompong Speu; 2,000 in the 4th Military Region in Siem Reap; and 3,000 in the 5th Military Region in Battambang.

2. There are on average between 400 and 500 Vietnamese military technicians in each military region of the Phnom Penh side.

3. There are 7,800 Vietnamese advisers in the divisions, regiments, and battalions of the Phnom Penh side Army.

4. There are 5,000 Vietnamese troops in the A-3 police.

5. There are 200 Vietnamese staff attached to the Phnom Penh command.

In sum, Vietnamese forces stationed in Cambodia altogether number more than 23,700, excluding intervention mobile forces which move in and out of Cambodia from Vietnam—1,000 troops on average each month. These Vietnamese aggressor forces have successively carried out activities and launched offensives against the liberated zones of the Cambodian national resistance forces, such as in Leach, Moung, and Bakan Districts in Pursat Province. They have violated the liberated area of Pailin; attacked the liberated zone in Bavel District, and attacked the liberated zones in Oddar Meanchey, Siem Reap, Kompong Thom, Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Speu, and Kampot Provinces, and so on.

In mid-January, Vietnam again launched offensives against the liberated zone in Stoung and Kompong Svay Districts in Kompong Thom Province. Each phase is followed by another; fighting continues to this day.

UN military officials in Cambodia clearly informed journalists in Phnom Penh early this month that the Phnom Penh side troops have attacked and seized many liberated villages of the PDK [Party of Democratic Kampuchea] in Kompong Thom since mid-January in order to cut off the transport activities of the PDK into eastern Cambodia. Vietnam is present in the Phnom Penh side Army.

Therefore, it is the Vietnamese aggressors who continue the war. As long as there are Vietnamese in Cambodia,

the war cannot be ended. Peace, security, and stability in the region will still be a problem. The war can be ended only when the Paris agreement is correctly implemented; this requires:

1. Ensuring that Vietnam withdraws all its aggressor forces from Cambodia and making sure that these Vietnamese forces and weapons do not return to Cambodia. This can be done only when UNTAC and the four Cambodian parties cooperate in evenly checking east and west Cambodia and Phnom Penh.

2. A complete dissolution of the forces of all four Cambodian parties.

UN General on Continuing Battle in Kompong Thom

BK1403091692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0804 GMT 14 Mar 92

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 14 (AFP)—Fighting has continued around Kompong Thom as Khmer Rouge forces try to consolidate their positions ahead of the deployment of U.N. peacekeeping forces, Cambodian and U.N. sources said Saturday.

French General Michel Loridon, commander of U.N. interim forces, called the fighting the worst cease-fire violation thus far in Cambodia, where a cease-fire was declared in June.

Heavy fighting raged overnight Friday around Kompong Thom, 125 kilometers (80 miles) north of Phnom Penh, between the Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh government forces, Cambodian military sources said.

Loridon said 14 Phnom Penh troops had been killed and about 40 wounded since the start of the month.

Khmer Rouge troops, he said, were at least 10 kilometers (six miles) from Kompong Thom, surrounding all but the southern side of the town as they were unable to cut the road to Phnom Penh.

"It is the biggest cease-fire violation," said Loridon, who Sunday will pass command of U.N. peacekeeping forces to General John Sanderson of Australia as interim U.N. administration of Cambodia starts up.

Loridon said the first clashes began in January when Phnom Penh forces tried to seize key villages around Kompong Thom.

They were followed in February by offensives led by Ta Mok of the Khmer Rouge, who controls the bushlands of northern Cambodia.

Loridon estimated the strength of Phnom Penh and Khmer Rouge forces in the area to be about equal, with 3,000 to 4,000 men on each side.

Combatants of the two other Cambodian factions, those loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk and partisans of former premier Son Sann, are "weak in this region" and not involved in the fighting, Loridon said.

"I think the Khmer Rouge wants to stake out its territory before the arrival (of U.N. peacekeeping forces)," he said. "But now that they (U.N. troops) are arriving, things should calm down."

The U.N. interim administration in Cambodia, made up of 21,000 soldiers and civilians, marks the biggest peacekeeping operation in the history of the United Nations.

It is tasked with upholding the cease-fire, organizing the demobilization and disarming of the warring factions, and handling most of the country's administration.

It is also to organize and supervise elections to be held no later than May 1993 after repatriating more than 350,000 Cambodian refugees now in Thailand.

Fighting Called 'Worst' Violation

BK1403105892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1047 GMT 14 Mar 92

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Excerpt] Phnom Penh, March 14 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge has refused to order an end to fighting around the strategic central Cambodian town of Kompong Thom, a U.N. official said Saturday.

Khmer Rouge leaders had refused to do so "arguing they did not have a complete picture of the situation in the area," French General Michel Loridon, commander of U.N. interim forces, said as military delegates from the four Cambodian factions ended talks here.

Since the end of February fighting between Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh troops has been going on around Kompong Thom, an important communicatiuns link between the Khmer Rouge and their troops in the east and southeast of the country.

Lorindon called it the worst cease-fire violation thus far in Cambodia.

A ceasefire ending the fighting between Phnom Penh and the three guerrilla factions was declared in June.

The head of the U.N. Advance Mission to Cambodia (UNAMIC) Ataul Karim met Saturday with Khmer Rouge leader Son Sen and asked him to order a cease-fire in his capacity as military head of the faction.

Karim, noting that it was his last day as UNAMIC chief, reportedly told Son Sen to extend a gift to the mission by "letting me see peace and tranquility return to Kompong Thom."

UNAMIC is due to hand over responsibilities Sunday to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). [passage omitted]

Khmer Rouge Attacks Expected To 'Intensify'

BK1403080692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] UN officials have said in Phnom Penh that they have convened an urgent meeting with high-ranking military representatives of the four Cambodian parties to discuss cease-fire violations. UN officials said that this week the Khmer Rouge side has attacked many strategic positions in northern Cambodia.

UN officials say these attacks are expected to intensify. UN sources disclosed that the Khmer Rouge have consolidated their frontline positions in northern Cambodia with at least 3,500 reinforcement troops, fresh ammunition, and many artillery pieces since the end of February. The sources said the Khmer Rouge plan to cut off the Phnom Penh regime's communications with the provinces in the north by controlling some stretches of national Routes 6 and 12. The Phnom Penh troops have fought back but observers say these Heng Samrin soldiers are in disarray and disorder; a number of soldiers have deserted while some have not been paid for months.

Colonel Oeng Buntri of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia said the Phnom Penh troops caused the deaths of eight civilians in Kompong Thom Province last Wednesday [11 March] during an artillery attack on the zones controlled by the Cambodian resistance.

Recent Violations by Phnom Penh, SRV Forces Noted

BK1603030292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Mar 92

["List of Recent Cease-Fire Violations by Vietnamese Forces and the Phnom Penh Side's Forces in March 1992," read by announcer]

[Text] 1. Kompong Thom battlefield: Since 1 March, Vietnamese forces and those of the Phnom Penh side have launched a fierce offensive against the liberated zones of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] around Kompong Svay and Stoung Districts in Kompong Thom Province.

In this offensive, the Vietnamese forces and the Phnom Penh side are using 500 troops from Division 700, 500 from Division 5, 500 from the Kompong Thom provincial forces, 500 from the 4th Military Region, and a number of other forces—Vietnam's E-89 and the Special Unit 73. This offensive caused the loss of many lives and much property. Fighting continues to this day.

In this fighting, the Vietnamese forces and the Phnom Penh side are using tanks and all types of artillery, including many M-13 batteries of multiple rockets. Between 400 and 500 multiple rockets are fired each day. The Vietnamese forces and the Phnom Penh side are now gathering between 400 to 500 soldiers from the 2d Military Region to reinforce the existing 2,000 troops in order to continue the offensive against the PDK for one month, from 15 March to 15 April. The commander of the 2d Military Region, with the rank of Lieutenant General, has been ordered to be part of the command on the Kompong Thom battlefield.

2. Battambang battlefield: On 5 March, the Vietnamese forces and the Phnom Penh side attacked and seized the PDK's liberated territory in Koah Kralar Village and flew a flag to show that this belongs to them. It is to be specified that Koah Kralar Village had been our territory since 1980. To this day, the Phnom Penh side troops have not yet withdrawn from this village.

3. Kampot battlefield: On 2 March, the Vietnamese forces and the Phnom Penh side attacked the area in which the PDK troops were preparing the cantonment area to show to UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia] at (Odam Serei) monastery in Lbaeuk Commune, Chhuk, District [Kampot Province]. This attack killed five and wounded 12 PDK troops.

4. Kompong Speu battlefield: On 23 February, the Vietnamese forces and the Phnom Penh side attacked disabled combatants and women at (Anlung Phnhiev) in Kong Pisei District, Kompong Speu Province, killing or wounding a number of disabled people. Houses, property, rice, and paddy were all burned and destroyed.

Proper Implementation of Paris Accord Urged

BK1403043892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Unatributed commentary: "The UN Advance Mission in Cambodia and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia Must Cooperate and Correctly Implement the 23 October Paris Agreement"]

[Text] The 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, Chapter Four, Article Eight, clearly says that once the agreement takes effect, all Vietnamese aggressors should be withdrawn from Cambodia under the control of the United Nations and the Supreme National Council [SNC].

However, more than four months since the Paris agreement was signed, the issue of control of the withdrawal of all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia has not yet been dealt with. The UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC], dispatched to Cambodia over the past few months, has not checked Vietnamese aggressor forces. In particular, UNAMIC has not yet been stationed in eastern Cambodia; it only checks the western part of Cambodia. It checks only the resistance forces, the victims of Vietnam's act of aggression.

Under these circumstances, the Vietnamese aggressors have taken the opportunity to move troops and bring in artillery pieces and multiple rocket batteries to launch offensives against the liberated zones of the Cambodian national resistance forces. These operations continue.

What is the reason for this? The reason is that the most important point of the agreement has not yet been implemented—namely, the control of Vietnamese aggressor forces. On this point, UNAMIC, UNTAC, and the SNC must cooperate and correctly implement the Paris agreement of 23 October, namely:

1. UNAMIC and the SNC must cooperate in ensuring that all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia;

2. The four Cambodian parties' Armies must be disarmed and dissolved.

Indonesia

Darwin Protest by Peace Boaters Said Provocative

BK1303151092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1425 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Jakarta, March 13 (OANA-ANTARA)—The demonstration lodged by the passengers of the Lusitania Expresso and members of the East Timorese troublemakers group (GPK) in front of the Indonesian Consulate in Darwin, indicated that the controversial voyage of the ship to lay wreaths in the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili is obviously a provocation, a senior military officer has said.

After failing in their provocative voyage on the Lusitania Expresso (to Dili), they still launched another provocative action by staging a demonstration in front of our consulate building, spokesman for the Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) Brigadier General Nurhadi Purwosaputro said here late Thursday.

The Portuguese ship which carried some 130 passengers turned back towards Darwin Wednesday morning after three Indonesian Navy warships intercepted it while cruising towards East Timor.

Nearly 150 people took part in the demonstration, ANTARA journalist Riris Irawati reported from Darwin on Thursday night.

Some demonstrators laid wreaths in front of the consulate while one of them was reading a protest petition.

The demonstration was apparently triggered by the abortive voyage of the ship which had cost nearly 1.5 million U.S. dollars.

Australian police officers were on high alert to deal with a possible attack by the demonstrators against the building.

There were no reports of damage in the incident.

The demonstrators looked angry after their failure to lay wreaths at the Santa Cruz cemetery, which Jakarta called as a provocative mission.

The demonstrators also looked very angry when an ANTARA journalist took a photograph of the event.

The police suggested the Indonesian journalists who covered the event to act prudently so as not to enrage the demonstrators.

The demonstration, which lasted a relatively short time ended at 21.30 (local time).

The Australian ABC Television network reported on Thursday night that the organizers of the mission had planned another provocative voyage in a larger scale next year.

Commander Says Portugal's Credibility Damaged

BK1403043692 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Brigadier General Theo Shafei, commander of the East Timor Operations Command, says Portugal's credibility in the eyes of its supporters in East Timor has plummeted after the ship Lusitania Expresso was easily turned back by the Indonesian Armed Forces. Speaking to reporters in Dili before he left for Jakarta yesterday, the commander said the failure of the Portuguese ship's mission has strongly affected the morale of its supporters in Dili. Portugal must have believed that the ship's provocative mission would produce something more significant than the 12 November 1991 incident.

But now Portugal's credibility has been strongly affected by the amateurish voyage of the ship. To make things worse, former Portugese President Antonio Ramalho Eanes was also aboard the so-called peace boat.

From his observation, our correspondent Sudirman Hala reports that the situation in East Timor, especially in Dili, is now calm and local people are relieved to see the Portuguese ship's failure to enter Indonesian territorial waters.

Success in Thwarting Portuguese Ship Hailed

BK1403080892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 14 Mar 92

[From the press review]

[Text] SUARA KARYA discusses Indonesia's success in thwarting the provocative voyage of the Portuguese ship Lusitania Expresso. This daily says there is a lesson to be learned from the event—namely, that with a firm stand based on existing laws as well as our ability not to be provoked easily, we can eventually force our opponents to turn back. Besides, the fact that the Lusitania Expresso's captain heeded the Indonesian warship Yos Sudarso's warnings amounts to a sort of recognition of our country's sovereignty over East Timor. This means that we have once again refuted the argument of Portugal, which has always claimed sovereignty over East Timor.

KEDAULATAN RAKYAT says Indonesia's success in chasing away the Portuguese ship has tremendously enhanced our spirit of patriotism and heroism. Our next

task concerns how to maintain such patriotism and heroism so as to ensure the success of development and uphold our national dignity.

Peace Ship Impounded by Court Restraining Order

BK1503064292 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] It has been reported from Darwin that the Portuguese ship Lusitania Expresso, which failed to carry out its provocative mission in Indonesian waters, has been impounded because its owner had an unpaid debt of $50,000 to a Spanish company. Officials in Darwin disclosed that lawyers of the Spanish company have obtained a court restraining order that prevented the ship from leaving Darwin last Friday.

Laos

Assembly Plenary Session Opens in Vientiane

BK1303130192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] The eighth plenary session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] was opened in Vientiane this morning under the chairmanship of Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of the SPA, to hear a report on the implementation of the direction of the socioeconomic development plan and state budget for 1991 and to adopt the direction of the socioeconomic development tasks and state budget for the year 1992.

Attending the Second SPA's eighth plenary session were Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon; Maichantan Sengmani, head of the Party-State Control and Inspection Board; Saman Vignaket, minister of education and sports; Somlat Chanthamat, head of the party Central Committee Propaganda and Training Board; Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and minister of economics, planning, and finance; and Thongsing Thammavong, vice chairman of the SPA and head of the party Organizational Board.

On this occasion, SPA Chairman Nouhak Phoumsavan delivered a speech officially opening the conference.

After that Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and minister of economy, planning, and finance, presented a report to the SPA session on the fulfillment of the direction of the socioeconomic development work and budget for the year 1991.

The eighth plenary session of the Second SPA will continue for two days before it is closed.

Nouhak Remarks Cited

BK1303142792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Speech by Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly, SPA, delivered at the opening of the eighth plenary session of the Second SPA on 13 March 1992—recorded]

[Text] Beloved excellencies and members of the SPA:

In November last year, we assessed together the performance of work by the Second SPA at the seventh plenary session. At the same time, we also debated and endorsed some laws. In expressing their views at that session, all delegates acknowledged their own achievements and were very proud to see that they had made noble contributions to fulfilling the fundamental tasks of the Second SPA. (?After that meeting), all delegates brought back with them copies of the Constitution we had promulgated at the conference to their respective localities to be popularized among and studied by the people for practical application. More than two months have passed since the people have extensively studied and debated on the contents of the Constitution. The multiethnic Lao people have now come to realize that this is the first time in history that the Lao people's democratic rights and freedom have been fully recognized in the Constitution. Due to the fact that the right to mastership which is the fundamental right and interest of the people has been ensured and that we have now come to manage our society with regulations and laws, state functionaries, such as those in the judicial system, must strictly enforce all laws to ensure justice for the new regime. This is the way to safeguard the just rights and interests of the multiethnic people who are the masters of the country.

Today, the SPA is convening the eighth plenary session as stipulated in the Constitution. At this meeting, we will hear a report from the government on the implementation of the direction of the 1991 socieconomic development tasks and the orientation of the socioeconomic development tasks for the year 1992 which is the second year in which our entire party, Army, and people have organized the implementation of the resolution adopted at the fifth party congress. At the same time, we will hear a report on the execution of the 1991 state budget and a proposal on the state budget draft for the year 1992 which will be debated by all of you at this plenary session.

Beloved excellencies and comrades, in the past recent years, after the state budget for each year was promulgated for six months, it was necessary that it had to be readjusted so that expenditure would be in balance with actual revenue. That was only a method to resolve the problems of budget deficits caused by rising expenditure. It took us quite some time to be able to gradually resolve those problems. In debating the 1992 draft budgets, we have the duty not only to endorse an increase in the overall expenditure and revenue for this year and to maintain an appropriate ratio of the budget structure, but also to discuss necessary measures aimed at acquiring more income sources to increase revenue to meet the needs in fulfilling the fundamental tasks of our country, such as in carrying out national defense and socioeconomic development work to bring stability to all aspects of the situation in our country and to gradually

improve the living conditions of the multiethnic people. This is the fundamental objective in developing and building our democratic regime. Because the orientation of the socieconomic development tasks and state budget is linked to the party's policy of restructuring and the living conditions of the multiethnic people, I recommend that all SPA members profoundly study it so that we will proceed to endorse together the 1992 socioeconomic development plan and state budget. This is the fundamental duty of this plenary session.

I now declare the official opening of the eighth plenary session of the Second SPA. Thank you.

Session Concludes

BK1403150192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] The eighth plenary session of the Secondd Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], which opened yesterday morning, was closed with brilliant success under the chairmanship of SPA Chairman Nouhak Phoumsavan at the SPA building in Vientiane this afternoon.

Attending the closing ceremony were Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon; Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and minister of economics, planning, and finance; and over 100 members of the SPA and Council of Ministers.

During the session, Dr. Somphavan Inthavong, member of the SPA Standing Committee, read out the resolution of the session. The resolution says:

The Second SPA convened its eighth plenary session in Vientiane on 13 and 14 March 1992 under the chairmanship of Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the SPA. The session heard the report presented by Khamtai Siphandon, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on the implemenatation and direction of socioeconomic development work in 1991 and the direction and task of socioeconomic development in 1992 and the report by Khamphoui Keoboualapha, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, deputy prime minister, and minister of economics, planning, and finance, on the implementation of the state budget plan for the year 1991 and proposed draft budget for 1992.

The session noted that despite numerous difficulties but thanks to our party's correct policy of restructuring and endeavors on the part of the government coupled with the spirit of patriotism and love of the new regime of our multiethnic people, we have been able to register a number of laudable achievements in socioeconomic development in our country in the past year.

The session studied and agreed with the report presented by the government and contributed opinions to the evaluation of the implementation of the socioeconomic development work and state budget in 1991 and the socioeconomic development and budget plans for 1992. The session unanimously endorsed the socioeconmic development plan and state budget for 1992. The total revenue for 1992 budget is estimated at over 119 billion kip while the total expenditure amounted to over 250 billion kip.

The session has authorized the government to take some necessary measures to increase the sources of revenue and reduce expenditure, correct the budgetary deficit, and ensure the budget for socioeconomic development and national defense.

The session appeals to the multiethnic people of all strata and all economic sectors to enhance the spirit of patriotism and love for the new regime, bolster solidarity and reconciliation among tribes, heighten the sense of self-vigilance, jointly foil the subversive schemes of the enemies, and defend and build up the nation to facilitate the implementation of the socioeconomic development and state budget plan for the year 1992 and create conditions favorable to the further improvement of the multiethnic people.

Phoun Sipaseut Departs for Narcotics Meeting

BK1303121592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, left Vientiane at noon yesterday to attend a ministerial-level conference on control of the abusive use of narcotic drugs and cooperation in narcotic control and suppression among Laos, Myanmar [Burma], and Thailand. The conference is to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 12 to 15 March.

The conference will be attended by the delegations of the three countries with the Lao delegation headed by Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister; the Myanmar delegation headed by Phone Myint, home and religious affairs minister; and the Thai delegation headed by Phao Sarasin, deputy prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The objective of the conference is to outline a policy and guidelines for cooperation in narcotics control in this region, especially in the three countries. The narcotics control work will be divided into two levels, namely the policy and technical levels, and classified into four work units as follows:

1. The unit for planting substitute crops to replace poppy plantations and for the development of plateaus;
2. The unit for enforcing legal measures to suppress narcotics trafficking;
3. The unit for eradicating narcotic drugs; and
4. The unit for giving treatment to drug addicts.

Philippines

Grant for U.S. Landing Rights at Subic Planned

HK1603013392 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] The Philippines plans to give the United States landing rights in a key military airport at Subic Bay, under a security plan to be discussed by American and Filipino officials this week.

According to the proposed plan, the Philippine Government will post additional marines in Subic Bay to maintain order and security while the U.S. Forces are vacating the Naval base. The Philippine Navy will transfer their headquarters to Subic in October, and the Philippine Air Force will station the 15th Strike Wing in Cubi Point at the end of the year.

Aquino Denies Allowing Use

HK1603105392 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Text] President Corazon Aquino dismissed reports that the Philippines has agreed to a request from the United States to continue operations at Subic Naval Base and Cubi Point. The president said that while it is true that the United States did come forward with such a request, the government has not yet made any decision on the matter. Here is Tanny Rodriguez with the details:

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] Under the U.S. plan, which is set to be discussed by the Mutual Defense Board, the United States will maintain Cubi Point as an operational air field. The president, however, assured that no provision in the Constitution will be violated in the event an agreement on the presence of foreign forces or facilities is reached by both countries.

Press Secretary Horacio Paredes added that under the Mutual Defense Treaty, U.S. troops will only be allowed to land at Cubi Point but will not be allowed to maintain facilities there:

[Paredes, in English] ...[words indistinct] like a place where they can land and take off in the event that they have long flights. This is something that we allow our allies to do. This is something that we do for a lot of our allies when we have exercises in the Philippines. [end recording]

Meanwhile, defense officials from both the Philippines and the United States are scheduled to meet within the week to discuss U.S. plans to continue operations at Cubi Point. Cubi Point is the airfield found within Subic Naval Base in Olongapo. The United States wishes to continue operating the airfield to service American fighter planes, cargo planes, and other transport planes based in the Pacific region.

Senator Criticizes Westinghouse Settlement

HK1203031692 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 12 Mar 92 pp 1, 14

[Text] The nuclear plant deal between Malacanang and the Westinghouse Electric Corp. would virtually clear the late President Marcos and his cronies of charges that they defrauded the country of millions of dollars through the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) project, a member of the Senate blue ribbon committee said yesterday.

Sen. Wigberto Tanada, who heads the Senate committee investigating fraud charges against the financiers of the nuclear plant project, said the government's deal with Westinghouse set back efforts to bring to justice those involved in the fraudulent BNPP transaction.

"All our efforts to gather evidence and prosecute the Marcoses for this single biggest act of corruption in the country's history has been ignored," Tanada said in a phone interview.

The Aquino administration last week agreed to settle out of court its bribery case against Westinghouse in exchange for $10 million in cash and $90 million in credits and discounts.

The deal also paved the way for the operation of the nuclear plant, with Westinghouse repairing the plant at an additional cost of $400 million to the government, and operating it for 30 years for $40 million a year.

Sen. Rene Saguisag, who took part in hammering out the settlement, said the deal would not have a direct effect on criminal charges cited in Manila against Marcos cronies involved in the fraud, including Herminio Disini. Westinghouse allegedly bribed Marcos through Disini to corner the lucrative power plant contract.

Saguisag said the deal was still subject to Congress' approval.

Sen. Jovito Salonga, however, said the composition of Congress would largely determine the settlement's fate.

"If the same 12 senators who voted against the U.S. bases will be elected next year, this deal is doomed," said Salonga.

Tanada scored the settlement as "unjust" and said it "has weakened (the country's case)" against those who participated in the fraud.

"We have already paid more than half of the principal (of the BNPP debt), and we continue paying $300,000 a day in interest. Yet, we will still pay $400 million and $40 million a year to Westinghouse. Haven't we paid enough?," Tanada asked.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition [FDC] meanwhile charged President Aquino with ignoring her own committee's recommendation to exclude fraudulent nuclear plant loans from the $5-billion restructuring package.

The three-man presidential committee, which was tasked to investigate the complicity of commercial banks in the fraudtainted nuclear plant project, has warned against restructuring the BNPP loans.

But the President last Monday denied legitimizing any fraudulent loans in the debt package.

"I have instructed our debt negotiators to include a no-wavier provision. We want it very clear that we are not waiving our rights to go after those banks that may be proven in the future to have participated in the grant of a fraudulent loan to us," Ms. Aquino said in a press statement.

FDC president Leonor Briones said Citicorp and the Export-Import Bank of America, which guaranteed the Citicorp loan, must take part in the nuclear plant burden. "The Philippines must have the power to compel the other players in the deal to share the burden of the fraudulent deal," she added.

To protest the deal, the FDC will hold a "debt run" on Saturday with women's groups including the Gabriela, Flow, Kabapa, Pilipina, Kalayaan and the G-10 network participating in the event dubbed as "Sweat it Out."

Another group, the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno [KMU-1 May Movement], is set to hold a big rally tomorrow at the Don Chino Roces bridge to protest the Westinghouse deal.

"The workers and the Filipino people cannot and will not allow the Aquino government to get away with its deal with Westinghouse," KMU chairman Crispin Beltran said.

Communists Claim U.S. Backs Some Candidates

HK1503084592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0838 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Manila, March 15 (AFP)—Communist insurgents charged Sunday that the U.S. Government was supporting a number of candidates in the May 11 elections in a bid to strengthen its "control" over the country.

"The U.S. is not only sponsoring candidates who are patently pro-imperialist, but are also positioning the so-called 'silent operators' for U.S. interests, with direct linkages with the Central Intelligence Agency," the National Democratic Front (NDF) said.

An NDF statement sent to news agencies named one congressional candidate, and claimed there were "a lot like him."

"We shall name these people in due time, including the presidential aspirants who are in fact working for U.S. interests," it added.

The NDF is a rebel coalition dominated by the banned Communist Party of the Philippines and its New People's Army, which has been waging a 23-year guerrilla war.

The NDF said it would not directly take part in the polls, which it described as a means to "transfer and consolidate the control of political power among the reactionaries."

But "since it is being said that the people 'need and want' these elections," the rebels "believe we have to make our people realize that the elections cannot be the panacea to the ills of our society and country."

Japan Defers $1 Billion Aid Commitment

HK1603054392 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 14 Mar 92 p 17

[By Arleen C. Chipongian]

[Text] Hong Kong—Japan, the country's biggest source of grants and cheap loans, deferred the commitment of the estimated $1 billion 18th yen loan package at the conclusion of the two-day gathering of the Philippines' major fund donors.

Kazuo Sunaga, first secretary of the Japanese Embassy in Manila, said that Japan needed "to study very carefully the economic policies of the new administration" before fresh official development assistance (ODA) could be made.

The position of Japan is to wait it out after the May 11 general elections prior to fully committing the annual yen loan package.

During the session wherein the donors were asked to voluntarily pledge financial support specifically for the transition from the Aquino government to the new administration after the elections, Japan pledged a total of $507 million.

This was way below the traditional annual yen loan package averaging $2 billion.

Of the $507 million, $200 million will be for the rehabilitation of areas devastated by the eruptions of Mt. Pinatubo from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund [OECF]; $157 million will be in grants from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and $150 million wil be in the form of an energy loan from the Japan Export-Import Bank.

On the proposed financial assistance for the Philippines' second debt buy-back program, Sunaga said that the Japanese government was awaiting the position of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank prior to making its own decision on whether or not it will support the plan.

Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao earlier said that the OECF, the country's biggest source of grants and concessional loans, is not fully committing 18th yen loan package programmed for 1992.

This is a big blow to the foreign financing program of the Philippines, which has traditionally turned to the OECF for a substantial funding support for major government projects.

Thailand

Ministry Plans for U.S. Retaliatory Measures

BK1403032692 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Mar 92 p B1

[Text] The Commerce Ministry yesterday asked the private sector to prepare to cope with possible retaliatory action by the United States should Thailand refuse to offer retroactive protection for pharmaceutical patents.

Washington's decision, in the form of a US Trade Representative (USTR) announcement, is expected today. The Thai private sector was also warned that bilateral relations would be affected if the decision was unfavourable.

Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on called an urgent meeting with representatives of the Board of Trade, the Federation of Thai Industries and individual associations whose stake in exports is high.

After a one-hour meeting, Prayun Thaloengsi, executive director of the Board of Trade (an umbrella of industry associations), told reporters that each organization had been asked to make an assessment on the extent that it would be affected should the US take action and what measures the government could initiate to remedy the damage.

The meeting also set a strategy for each export-oriented industry to adjust should retaliation appear inevitable. The private sector in turn called on the government to consider what measures can be used to hit back at Washington, Prayun added.

"The discussion is, to us, a confidence-building measure. At least we know that the government will be on our side should the US continue to put pressure on us," he said.

The executive reiterated the private sector's support for the government to stand firm on its amendment of the patent act, which was approved by the National Legislative Assembly last Thursday.

The amendment extends patent protection to products originally not covered by the 1979 Patent Act such as pharmaceuticals, their active ingredients, food, beverages, farm machinery and biotechnological inventions.

Prayun said it was impossible for Thailand to review the law and provide retroactive protection for drugs already on sale even though such products might still not be available in the country.

The executive, who was a member of the Assembly committee that scrutinized the bill, maintained that as these drugs should not be considered new, they fail to meet the criteria for patent protection.

The US demand was acceptable, he said, while adding that Washington is pushing Thailand into a corner.

Apart from amending the patent act, the National Legislative Assembly last year passed a new trademark law drafted to protect service, certification and collective marks. Serious attempts have been made to end copyright piracy.

Further on Measures

BK1403025892 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Mar 92 pp A1, A2

[Text] In a bid to calm down private sector concern over today's announcement of possible trade retaliation by the United States, Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on said he had already prepared measures to counter Washington's action.

The minister also gave an assurance that the damage that the US could do to the country's exports would not exceed U.S.$65 million annually, equivalent to the loss in revenue caused by infringement of pharmaceutical patents in Thailand.

Amaret strongly ruled out any possibility for the Anan government to make more concessions to appease Washington that could include retroactive protection to drugs already on sale overseas but not yet available in Thailand.

Nor would the government agree to narrow the scope of conditions in which the state has the power to force original patent holders to license the rights, he added.

According to the U.S. Pharmaceutical Producers Association's estimate, the cost of Thai piracy to pharmaceutical innovators in 1988 was U.S.$45-60 million in lost sales.

The association filed the petition last March with the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) that led to the one-year investigation to be concluded today.

Amaret played down the effect of possible retaliatory action initiated by the USTR saying that should Washington decide to restrict Thai exports, the U.S.$65 million damage was affordable.

According to preliminary American estimates, Thai exports to the American market in 1991 were more than U.S.$5.9 billion and were forecast to grow to almost U.S.$7 billion in 1992.

Major Thai exports are processed fishery products, jewelry, textiles, footwear, integrated circuits, rubber, furniture, animal feed, rice, and automatic data processing equipment.

The minister yesterday called an urgent meeting with the private sector organizations to consult them on possible

options the government should have in the event any trade retaliation measures are announced.

Amaret told reporters confidently yesterday that he did not think that the U.S. would take drastic action against Thailand. And, if it did, his countermeasures would be equally severe.

But the minister declined to comment on what he had in mind, saying that the government has prepared step-by-step measures to avert any negative effects.

Reaction to Trade Decision

BK1503041892 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Mar 92 p A2

[Text] Officials and exporters expressed relief yesterday at the news that the United States Trade Representative (USTR) would hold off taking action against Thailand for what it called the failure to "adequately" protect American pharmaceutical patents.

Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on said the next government need not worry so much about patent protection now that amendments have been made to the substance of the patent law by protecting pharmaceuticals and active ingredients.

However, he agreed that bilateral negotiations might continue on additional concessions that the USTR wanted, including retroactive protection to drugs not yet marketed in Thailand and the elimination of a Price Review Board, but the talks should not be without Washington making an equally attractive offer, he said. The minister did not specify what offer he expected the United States to make.

Amaret also voiced hope that the next government would stick to multilateral rules when negotiating bilaterally with the United States, a tactic that the Anan government has adopted.

"I am confident that the US could not push for more. We have already reached our bottom line," the minister said.

A senior trade official, who asked not to be named, added that the multilateral agreements governing the patent protection of existing pharmaceuticals and the compulsory licensing—conditions in which the government can intervene to force licensing of the patent rights—would help Thailand out of the situation.

But bilateral discussion may be held to focus on the issue of the proposed Price Review Board, he said, adding that Thailand's situation is much better off than India. The USTR decided last month to pursue bilateral negotiations with New Delhi while formulating options for retaliation.

In the case of Thailand, the USTR did not say anything about retaliation.

An executive of Unicord Co, one of the country's largest canned tuna exporters, described the decision as "the beginning of danger." He said the private sector will have to wait until the new government is sworn into office. The private sector, he said, has prepared itself for quite some time. "After all, 301 is not new," he said.

Wirot Amatakunchai, president of the Thai Garments Manufacturers Association, expressed little concern about the outcome of the USTR decision. He said Thai-US textile and apparel trade is governed by an exclusive trade pact which was renewed just last year.

Minister's Views on Delay

BK1603084992 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 16 Mar 92 p 7

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on commented on the case of the United States having postponed the date for its decision whether to put Thailand on the list of priority first countries [PFC] to face U.S. trade retaliation under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act. He said that the United States' decision to postpone the date until it can hold talks with a new Thai Government to be formed after the forthcoming general election is good and appropriate. This is because the present Thai Government could not fullfil all the wishes of the United States.

In response to the recent statement made by Mrs. Carla Hills, chief of the U.S. Trade Representative Office delegation on Thailand's implementation of its policy on patent protection, the Thai minister said that Thailand has tried its utmost in amending its patent laws. Before the draft amendments to the patent bill were passed into law, there were a wide range of conflicting opinions among the Thais. "If the outsiders are still not satisfied with it and want to put more pressure on us, I do not think we could do anything else to meet their demands," he said.

Amaret went on to say that various measures have been mapped out for the new government to use in future talks with the United States, but they could not be disclosed at present. The measures will provide ways out for Thailand regardless of whether an agreement is reached with the United States or not.

Prayun Thaloengsi, executive director of Thailand's Board of Trade, said the United States' postponement of the period for imposing the Section 301 trade retaliation measure against Thailand was expected by the Thai Commerce Ministry and private sector. He said the ministry and private sector believe that the United States will have to consider this particular issue very carefully, because the Thai Government has all the time tried to amend laws to protect new inventions.

"We have given enough protection, whether for medicine, chemical products, or agricultural machinery. Everything we have carried out is in line with international principles," concluded Prayun.

U.S. Trade Policy Toward ASEAN Viewed

BK1603091992 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 16 Mar 92 p 3

[Editorial: "The U.S. Attitude"]

[Text] The Southeast Asian region's position in the eyes of the United States is changing. It is necessary for us to follow this movement. The Gulf war may be one of the last major wars of this era. It will be difficult to envision U.S. Forces fighting outside their territory in the future. The United States is attaching more importance to its people's livelihood and income and is emphasizing its economy.

The United States is facing a huge trade deficit, a budget deficit, and an economic recession. More people are becoming poor and losing their jobs. As a result, the people are not so satisfied with President Bush's government. There is strong pressure for the United States, under the Bush Government, to change its view toward Southeast Asia—from a political and military angle of preserving the balance of power, to a perspective focusing on trade and economic issues.

This is due to ASEAN announcing a free trade zone policy designed to form a common market in 15 years. Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia—three of the six ASEAN members—have registered the highest economic growth rates in the world, while Indonesia is in rich natural resources and the Philippines' economy is recovering. Southeast Asia, which comprises ASEAN, the three Indochinese countries, and Burma, is a large market with 350 million people.

The United States is calling all of its ambassadors to ASEAN countries back to receive the new policy. The ambassadors will have duties that include finding and analyzing markets and trying to find ways to open more markets to U.S. products. We do not know whether or not the United States will make more investment in this region. But it will emphasize trade by competing with other countries that have exported their products to this region.

The ASEAN market is very important to the United States. Southeast Asia has a population of 350 million people, while the EC has 320 million people. The volume of U.S. exports to this region is almost the same as that to the EC. Its trade volume with Singapore is higher than that with Spain and may even be higher than that with Italy. As a result, the United States is trying all methods to promote trade with this region, up to the extent of using Article 301 with Thailand.

From this perspective, we should feel comfortable since the United States intends to have trade with Thailand. However, it should not resort to restricting Thailand's exports to the United States. The U.S. should not be afraid that it cannot sell its products here. The products will find a market if they are of good quality and inexpensive.

Source Says Anan Policies Might Cause Inflation

BK1603034992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Mar 92 pp 17, 28

[Text] Inflation could rise sharply this year as a result of fiscal policies introduced by the Anan Government, a Fiscal Policy Office source has said.

The warning was included in a Fiscal Policy Office report to be submitted to the new government after the general election on March 22. The report was prepared to enable the new government to prepare measures to cope with the situation, the source said.

Many fiscal policies implemented by the Anan Administration would also both increase the government sector's expenditure and reduce its revenue collection, he said.

On the expenditure side, the Anan Government had increased civil servants' and state employees' salaries, effective from April 1.

At the same time, reductions in personal income tax and corporate tax would give taxpayers higher take-home incomes and greater purchasing power but would reduce government revenue.

As the purchasing power of employees in both the private and government sectors increased, so too would inflationary pressure, the source said.

"The Bank of Thailand will have to work hard to implement monetary measures to control the inflationary pressure," he said.

One measure the central bank could use to control inflationary pressure was intervention to maintain interest rates at high levels.

But the Bank of Thailand currently had a policy to allow the money market to adjust itself and interest rates were trending down.

The downward trend would help encourage more borrowing, particularly for new investment projects, he said.

The enactment of the Loan Interest Rate Bill last Friday would also give commercial banks and financial institutes more freedom to set their own interest rates.

The fiscal policies implemented by the Anan Government would mean the government sector would be unable to enjoy a fiscal surplus this fiscal year as it had in the past two years, the source said.

At best, the Government's budget would be balanced, but it was more likely to suffer a deficit this fiscal year.

But the Fiscal Policy Office was optimistic the restructured customs tax and the introduction of value-added tax would help enhance the country's export performance.

There were also signs the world economy and trade would recover this year, helping Thailand to export more and earn more foreign exchange.

Although the United States was likely to impose sanctions on Thai exports, the Commerce Ministry had already ensured that the damage would be minor.

World oil prices were also expected to remain at low levels.

All of these factors meant Thailand's economy was expected to grow 8 per cent this year, the source said.

Vietnam

Essay Discusses POW-MIA Investigations

BK1403091192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Unattributed essay]

[Text] According to VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY, as requested by the U.S. side, on the afternoon of 5 March the Vietnamese side agreed to conduct an immediate investigation into a report that there is an American being detained at Coc hamlet in Thanh Yen village, Thach Thanh District, Thanh Hoa Province, in the vicinity of Ninh Binh Province. This is a mountain village with 95 percent of the population being Muong ethnic people.

To ensure the unexpected factor, the U.S. side informed us of the location only one hour beforehand. U.S. and Vietnamese experts used helicopters to travel to this location, which is over 100 kms from Hanoi.

Present on the U.S. side were Colonel Robert Destate, in charge of document studies, and Mr. Emmet Morgan, who specializes in monitoring and investigating reports on live Americans. Both belong to the American MIA Office in Hanoi. Present on the Vietnamese side were Mr. Ngo Hoang, deputy director of Vietnam's Office for Missing Personnel, and some experts.

At the investigating location, U.S. experts were allowed to meet the village people's committee and cadres of Yen Son hamlet—formerly known as Coc hamlet—and a large number of the local people. The U.S. experts were also allowed to talk freely to a number of families at Coc hamlet.

According a document of the U.S. side, in 1986 they received a report that Vietnam had a well-guarded prisoner detention camp at Coc hamlet. Investigation results found that the report on the detention camp and on a live American being held at Coc hamlet is sheer fabrication. The U.S. experts asked questions directly, and were answered by local people who never before had any foreigners come to the hamlet; this was the first time the hamlet was visited by foreigners—referring to the presence of the two U.S. experts. The U.S. experts thanked the local cadres and people for their enthusiastic cooperation in answering many questions, and for their readiness to guide U.S. experts anywhere in the village as requested.

The U.S. experts also reported back to the United States that they found no detention camps remaining at Coc hamlet. Through their interview with the people, they also reached the conclusion that never before had any foreigners lived there.

As everyone knows, in the last few months, many individuals have repeatedly spread fabricated reports about the POW-MIA issue, claiming that there are still American servicemen alive in Vietnam. This is to stir up U.S. public opinion and cause further problems for normalization of U.S.-Vietnamese relations.

The Vietnamese side, with a high degree of goodwill, has created favorable conditions for the U.S. side to confirm all those reports received. Results show that, in fact, there are no American prisoners still living and detained in Vietnam. This has testified clearly to Vietnam's confirmation in the POW-MIA issue.

Recall that last summer many U.S. newspapers published pictures of alleged American servicemen still detained in Vietnam. But facts have prevailed over all ill intentions. On 14 August 1991, a fifth photo of an alleged American pilot still living in Indochina was officially confirmed by the U.S. Department of Defense as fake. Just as a series of other pictures, this photo was reproduced from a picture carried in a Soviet magazine and was later doctored and published in U.S. newspapers.

Also last summer U.S. newspapers again produced the photo of U.S. Army Captain (Donald Karl), allegedly still living and being detained in Laos. Only six months after its investigation, the U.S. Department of Defense again confirmed that this picture was fake. This photo was actually of a man now living in Thailand. And recently, the U.S. television network ABC released a document saying that this photo is of a German named (Titor Nezarek) who is now doing business in Thailand. ABC also reported that its correspondent (Ansaker) traced the source and found the identity of the one who provided the fake photo. He is ex-U.S. Air Force Colonel (Billy) now in Thailand engaged in the search for American prisoners. (Billy) claimed he had received this photo from an unidentified person. But when the ABC correspondent proved this photo was fake and belonged to a German, (Billy) assaulted the correspondent. He later confessed that he is the author of this photo.

Early this year, Oleg Kalugin, an ex-KGB major general of the former Soviet Union, also produced a sensational report that KGB officials had interviewed a number of Americans prisoners of war in Vietnam during the period 1975-76. This report was not confirmed by the KGB or CIA. However, investigation into this report was also undertaken. The U.S. Congress sent officials to many locations in the former Soviet Union and in Indochina to investigate this report. The results of the

investigation conducted by the United States show that there is no record of KGB officials interviewing American prisoners of war following the U.S. troop withdrawal from Vietnam in 1973 and following the end of the war in 1975.

Once again, we affirm that Vietnam will always maintain its goodwill and humanitarian attitude toward resolving the POW-MIA issue. At the same time, Vietnam will also disapprove the use of this issue for any political purposes.

Khmer Rouge Denounced for Violating Cease-Fire

BK1603131692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 16 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The French News Agency AFP [AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE] reported on fierce fighting in Kompong Thom township, 135 km south of Cambodia, provoked by the Khmer Rouge. The Voice of Vietnam has this to say:

According to the commander of the UN temporary authority force in Cambodia, General Michel Loridon, the Khmer Rouge refused to observe the cease-fire, which he said was a gross violation of the peace accord in Cambodia. The head of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC] last weekend met with Son Sann, military chief of the Khmer Rouge to urge for implementation of the truce.

The Voice of America quoted UN officials and foreign diplomats in Phnom Penh as saying that this violation was part of the Khieu Samphan faction's attempt to increase the territory under their control before the UN keeping force is sent to Cambodia.

A spokesman for the Singapore foreign minister last Saturday, 14 March, issued a statement denouncing the Khieu Samphan faction for launching this military activity which was threatening the deployment of the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia.

Earlier, Major Russel Stuart, commander of an Australian force of the UNAMIC, was badly wounded when his helicopter was flying over the Khmer Rouge's control area in Kompong Thom province in central Cambodia.

Reality shows that the Khmer Rouge, a signatory to the Paris peace accord in Cambodia has not observed the articles stipulated in the agreement. Worse still, they are going out of their way to hamper the deployment of the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia.

Participation in Berlin Tourism Fair Noted

BK1503150792 Hanoi VNA in English 1405 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 15—Vietnam is taking part in the annual international fair on tourism which opened in Berlin on March 12.

This is Vietnam's 8th participation in the fair arranged by the representative of Vietnam Tourism in Hamburg.

At this fair, 36 more companies have approached the Vietnam Tourist Service to discuss the inclusion of Vietnam in their tourist programmes.

In 1991, nearly 6,000 tourists from Germany came to Ho Chi Minh City, double the 1990 figure, and in the first two months of this year, the number of German tourists asking for visas to Vietnam was double that for the same period last year.

Also at this fair, the Eastern Asia Institute of Germany sponsored a 'Vietnam Day' to invite prospective tourists to visit Vietnam on tourist-cum-study tours. The Germany-Vietnam society is also organising tours of Vietnam in the same line.

Civil Aviation Agreement Signed With France

BK1403152892 Hanoi VNA in English 1444 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 14—Vietnam and France have signed an agreement on technical cooperation in civil aviation. The event was marked by Vietnamese Minister of Communications, Transport and Posts Bui Danh Luu's recent visit to France as guest of French Minister of Supply, Housing, Transports and Space Paul Quilles.

While there, Minister Bui Danh Luu had working sessions with French businessmen, industrialists as well as bankers, and called at various communications and transport projects; research institutions as well as training centres.

SRV, Hungary Sign Commercial Agreement in Hanoi

BK1303154592 Hanoi VNA in English 1457 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 13—An agreement on commerce and payment and a protocol on settlement of accounts between Vietnam and Hungary were signed here this afternoon.

Signatories were Vice Minister of Commerce and Tourism Lea Kim Lang and Undersecretary of International Economic Relations George Gilian, who is leading an economic delegation of the Hungarian Government on a working visit to Vietnam from March 11.

The delegation will leave here for Ho Chi Minh City tomorrow.

Electric Motor Factory Output Noted

BK1203132692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 10 Mar 92

[Text] The Vietnam-Hungary electric motor factory of the General Electric Equipment Corporation of the Heavy Industry Ministry has signed contracts for selling its products on domestic markets and for exports, which are worth more than 10 billion dong, an increase of one and a half times last year's amount. This has stabilized work and increased income for all of its workers.

As of late February, the factory has achieved a higher business figure and has contributed to the state budget at rates 78 to 100 percent higher than those of the same period last year.

The factory has achieved a uniform increase in manufactured products and has provided customers with more than 1,000 kinds of electric motors on a timely basis, fulfilling 22 percent of its annual plan norm, or an increase of 63 percent as compared to the same period in 1991.

Hanoi Comments on Current Afghan Situation

BK1103135692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 11 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] On the Afghan issue, the spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said in Hanoi on Monday, 9 March, that the best way to settle the conflict would be for all Afghan parties to sit down at the negotiating table and talk as suggested by the UN secretary general. Here is our comment on this issue.

Of late, the UN secretary general proposed the convening of a meeting between Afghan parties in late next month to find a political solution to the conflict. Despite this proposal, the situation in that country remains very tense. In recent days, Afghan opposition extremists conducted wanton shellings on population areas in Kabul, killing hundreds of civilians, among them many women and children.

The spokesman told VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY in an interview that these acts, like the stubborn rejection of the five-point proposal for a political settlement of the Afghan issue and the recent call by the UN secretary general, ran counter to the Afghan people's aspiration for peace. They also caused tension to mount in the region. The spokesman strongly condemned this wanton shelling and demanded an immediate end to all acts that threathen the normal life of the Afghan people.

The spokesman said that the Vietnamese Government highly values the position and goodwill and effort of the Afghan Government to end the war and restore peace. Vietnam also hopes for an early convening of peace talks between the warring parties in Afghanistan in the spirit of the proposal made by the UN Secretary General.

Radio Comments on Cooperation Ties With ASEAN

BK1303025792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 7 Mar 92

[Article by station correspondent Duong Quang Minh: "Vietnam and ASEAN: A New Cooperative Stage Full of Potentials"]

[Text] The chairman of the Council of Ministers successfully completed his official visits to ASEAN members, including Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, and Brunei. Our Vietnamese people as well as people in those six countries and the progressive people in the world are happy at the new development between Vietnam and countries in the Southeast Asian region, a region with an important position in Asia and the Pacific, a fairly high economic development rate, and strong potentials in many fields.

The first success of Vo Van Kiet's official visits to ASEAN members is the confirmation of friendship and cooperation relations for the interest of each country and entire Southeast Asian region by Vietnam and all ASEAN members. Indonesian President Suharto said that the road of cooperation is broadening for Indonesia, Vietnam, and other countries in the Southeast Asian region. Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun stressed that Thailand and Vietnam agreed to forget about the past and look forward for a bright future. Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong confirmed that after the Peace Accords in Cambodia were signed, there was no obstacle left between Singapore and Vietnam. Philippine President Aquino stated that the present and future relations between the Philippines and Vietnam are more precious than the germ plaques that were exchanged by preceding generations of the two countries.

The second success of the visits is manifested by the signing of a series of economic and trade agreements including the agreement on investment encouragement and protection, sea and aviation transport, and the formation of committees on economic, trade, scientific and technological, cultural, and tourism cooperation. During these visits, Vietnam and Brunei officially established diplomatic ties. With this event, we have full diplomatic relations with all our neighboring countries.

The ASEAN member leaders highly evaluated the renovation process in Vietnam and its fine initial results. They also expressed their readiness to exchange experiences on economic development with Vietnam and help us with their highest capacity. They stressed that the ASEAN countries are not considering Vietnam as their competitor but they want Vietnam to be prosperous and quickly become an economic power in the region. When Vietnam develops its economy, the vitality and position of Southeast Asia will be further strengthened.

One of the prominent points of the visits was the agreement between Vietnam and ASEAN countries in assessing the regional situation. All welcomed the peace accords for Cambodia which was signed in late October

1991 in Paris. They also stated that with the restoration of peace in Cambodia, for the first time in contemporary history, the Southeast Asian countries have had a good chance to cooperate and build their region of stability and prosperity.

Vietnam and ASEAN members agreed that all regional countries should join the 1976 Bali Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, a foundation for mutual coexistence and cooperation for the building of Southeast Asia. The ASEAN countries welcomed Vietnam's decision to join the treaty and they consider that as Vietnam's important contribution to the common cause of the region.

The official visits to ASEAN members by Chairman Vo Van Kiet had additional meanings and achieved better results because the visits were done when the international community has been striving to bring peace back to Cambodia and when the Sino-Vietnam relations had been normalized through the official friendship visit to China by General Secretary Do Muoi and Chairman Vo Van Kiet on November 1991.

The international environment is creating favorable conditions for our economic development. Therefore, we are contributing our important share to the peaceful and cooperative trend not only in the Southeast Asian region but also in the entire Asian Pacific region. This is the practical application of the seventh party congress resolution into life and this is also a noble direction that our party and state have outlined for us to move forward.

Improvements Needed To Increase Investment

BK1303034592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 8 Mar 92

[Article by Professor Nguyen Mai, deputy head of the State Commission for Investment and Cooperation, published in the THUONG MAI review; date not given]

[Summary] In December 1987 the SRV National Assembly adopted the law on foreign investment. Since then the law has been warmly welcomed by world opinion, which has termed it a good law with relatively favorable features, compared to similar laws in other countries.

"In 1988, the first year this law was implemented, licenses were granted to only 37 investment projects with total capital of $359 million. This was due to the lack of understanding between Vietnamese and the foreigners. In 1989 the number of projects increased by almost twofold, jumping to 69 with total investment capital of $513 million. In 1990 the growth rate was not high since only 108 projects, with total capital of $589 million, were licensed. In 1991, however, investment developed more vigorously and the number of projects increased by 40 percent compared to 1990, while the total investment capital reached $1,234 million, or an increase of 209 percent."

It is necessary to mention here that the dramatic reduction in exports to markets in the former Soviet Union and East European countries was partially made up in 1991 thanks to efforts made by sectors concerned to improve the quality of Vietnamese products meeting demands of markets in other countries. As a result, it is expected that Vietnam's export value will increase quickly in the next few years.

I would also like to mention some other factors that help encourage foreign investment in Vietnam. "That is, in recent years postal and telephone communications between provinces as well as telecommunications between Vietnam and other countries have been improved considerably. It can be said that the progress made in this field has been greater than that made in the past several decades, thanks to effective cooperation between the Vietnam Post and Telecommunications General Corporation and the Australian OTC Company, and other communications companies of South Korea, Germany, and France. Moreover, we have built and are building 73 hotels and trade centers to help promote tourism and provide facilities for the increasing number of foreign investors and businessmen." These are factors helping to promote foreign investment in Vietnam at present.

At the conference of foreign investors held in Hanoi recently, the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment received many sincere and constructive ideas from them. They highly praised achievements in Vietnam's renovation undertaking, while complaining about bureaucratism in the country. Indeed, many state agencies hold that they have the highest authority while none of them take the responsibility to resolve obstacles to help accelerate investment projects. The foreign investors have also called for less complication in issuing visas and complying with customs procedures.

"Moreover, the foreign investors have paid special attention to activities of the banking sector. In reality, they were not satisfied with the slow progress made by Vietnam, given the urgent requirements of the new market mechanism."

They also questioned why Vietnam, a country that wants to attract more foreign investment, maintains such high costs for services, high postal fees, and high land and rental costs, and so forth, some of which are higher than in some countries in the region.

Four years is not a long time, but we have learned many useful lessons. When we shift to the market mechanism and adopt the open door policy, we should respect the objective demands and international practices. We must put this into consideration when formulating our laws and carrying out our activities. While countries in the region cooperate with Vietnam, they also want to attract more foreign investment. As a result, efforts to improve the investment atmosphere at home to attract foreign

companies, to train and create directors and accountants, and to amend laws on foreign trade relations are the urgent requirements facing Vietnam now and in the days ahead.

Report on Investment, Export Projects

BK1303155192 Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT 13 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 13—According to the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment (SCCI) this year will see many investment projects on cement production, mining and oil refining. In January alone, SCCI granted 20 investment licenses to foreign companies at a total capital of USD 110 million.

The Union of Import-Export Companies in the northern border province of Yen Bai has so far this year signed contracts to export 1,000 tonnes of tea and 600 tonnes of cinnamon at a total value of USD 2 million, a four-fold increase over the same period last year.